Section Five: Workshop Readings

Day One—Introduction to the Color Line

The background readings examine civil rights struggles in Atlanta that predate the 1960s and how the memory of the Civil War is political as well as cultural. The Civil Rights acts of 1875 and 1964 help to frame the workshop, and the Supreme Court decisions that declare the first unconstitutional and the second constitutional have places and events in Atlanta that will be part of our field visits. The 1883 Civil Rights decision and 1996 Plessy set the stage for the legislated segregation that proliferated at the turn of the twentieth century.

1. Background Readings


Day Two—The Color Line in Post-Civil War Atlanta and the South

The background readings provide background by scholars for an understanding of race relations in the post-Civil War era and of the Atlanta Compromise speech of Booker T. Washington. The documentary selections from Du Bois’ Souls of Black Folk include his description of Atlanta University and the commercialism of Atlanta, his analysis of the failure of Reconstruction, and his critique that characterized Washington’s 1895 speech at the Cotton States Exposition as “the Atlanta Compromise.” The site visit documents for Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta University, and Piedmont Park provide contemporary detail and set up themes for discussion at the historic sites we will visit.

1. Background Readings


Theda Perdue, “Beyond the Atlanta Compromise,” in Race and the Atlanta Cotton States Exposition of 1895 (University of Georgia Press, 2010), 7-51.

2. Documentary Readings


Booker T. Washington’s Cotton States Exposition Address, September 18, 1895.

http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/39/
Day Three—The Color Line and Black Resistance
The background reading consists of two short accounts of presenters who were participants in the Civil Rights struggle during the 1960s in Atlanta. The documentary reading is a defense of segregation by then Governor of Georgia and later U.S. Senator Herman Talmadge. (The “you” in the title is intended for white people) The site visit documents for Atlanta University, the Student Movement, and the Fox Theater provide contemporary newspaper accounts of 19th century theater segregation and the 1960’s sit-in movement in Atlanta. They also include news clips from the 1960s and videos of workshop speakers looking back on their experiences as college students in the Atlanta sit-ins.

1. Background Readings
“Joseph E. Lowery,” “John Lewis,” “Julian Bond and Lonnie King,” “Ralph David Abernathy.”

2. Documentary Reading

Day Four—Struggling Against the Color Line
The background readings provide background on the Atlanta Race Riot and the Martin Luther King, Jr. arrest in the sit-in at Rich’s Department Store. The documentary readings are the Heart of Atlanta Motel decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that declared the 1964 Civil rights Act constitutional. The site visit documents provide detail for the walking tour of the Atlanta Race riot and sites of protest against the color line in the 1880s and the 1960s. There are also news clips of the owner of the Heart of Atlanta Hotel and an edited video of Lester Maddox and his effort to skirt the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

1. Background Readings

2. Documentary Readings

Day Five—Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King—The Struggle for the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Expansion of Civil Rights in the Late 20th Century.
The background readings include assessments and encyclopedia entries for Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, and assessments of the challenges of the Civil Rights Movement. The documentary sources include recordings of Dr. King’s 1964 lecture in London in advance of
his Nobel Peace Prize award and his sermon delivered at Ebenezer Baptist Church two months before his assassination in 1968. Coretta Scot King’s lecture on the AIDS epidemic and the rights of gay people demonstrate her effort to carry on the work of her husband and the Civil Rights Movement. The site visit documents focus on Bethel AME Church as a center of African American political and cultural life. Dr. King’s return to Atlanta in 1960, his arrest at the Rich’s sit-in, and his treatment in the press after his Nobel Prize and assassination; and important business buildings on Auburn Avenue.

1. Background Readings

2. Documentary Sources
Martin Luther King, Jr. speech in London, December 7, 1964. This is a long speech, you can stop at the first station break.
http://www démocracynow.org/2015/1/19/exclusive_newly_discovered_1964_mlk_speech
Martin Luther King, Jr. “The Drum Major Instinct,” On 4 February 1968, Dr. King preached this sermon from the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church two months before his assassination on 4 April 1968. Short version-- https://vimeo.com/77261262 Listen to the short version, but there is also the long version-- http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/doc_the_drum_major_instinct/
Coretta Scott King. Keynote Address - AIDS Memorial Quilt Initiative by October 18, 1999 - Atlanta, Georgia at the launching of the Historically-Black Colleges And Universities AIDS Memorial Quilt Initiative. Coretta Scott King http://gos.sbc.edu/k/king.html

Day Six—The Aftermath of the Civil Rights Movement—Memories and Memorials
The background readings examine the continuing struggle over the memory of race, the incorporation of Civil Rights sites into the economy of tourism, and Atlanta’s capitalization on its Civil Rights past. The documentary sources provide background on the selection of Atlanta as the site of the 1996 Olympics, an account of Atlanta the year of the Olympics, and an editorial by an African American columnist on the role of the SCLC in the post-Civil-Rights era.

1. Background Readings
Clayton, Hewett, Hall, “Atlanta and ‘the Dream,”’ in David Sjoquist, ed.,