Section Four: Daily Schedule

Content and Design

The workshop will use sites in Atlanta to tell the powerful and provocative stories of the imposition and demolition of the Color Line. The Summer Scholars will explore the Fox Theater, where the physical barriers of a segregated facility are still visible. They will walk the streets of the two principal historic districts that trace the history of the color line, the Martin Luther King National Historic Site and the Atlanta University National Register District. They will visit sites throughout the city where civil rights history is memorialized. The summer scholars will have background readings and primary historic documents, access to historic site documentation on the websites of the Library of Congress (American Memory), the National Park Service; and the Landmark sites themselves in their study of the color line. They will hear lectures in their meeting places and at the sites they visit. Summer Scholars will receive resource packets with primary and secondary source materials for principal historical figures and the landmark sites with which they are associated in Atlanta. Summer Scholars will be encouraged to explore the needs of their local, state and national initiatives as they develop techniques and plans to engage students in the Civil Rights standards they address in the classroom. Technology innovations and applications will also be explored as scholars consider the powerful use of media to portray the Civil Rights story.

Day One  Summer Scholars will assemble for an opening dinner on Sunday evening for a lecture by Professor Timothy Crimmins on the origin of the color line in an urbanizing America in the early 19th century and the unsuccessful efforts in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War to eliminate the color line in public accommodations. After dinner, Martha Battle and Kristen Falk will arrange the Summer Scholars in smaller working groups, giving them the opportunity to learn a little more about the teaching backgrounds of their colleagues and to review the schedule of the week.

Day Two  The presentations by Professors Wendy Venet and Glenn Eskew will examine how slavery ended only to be replaced decades later by a rigid color line. Professor Venet will use her study of Atlanta during the Civil War to dramatize the termination of slavery with the arrival of Union General William T. Sherman's army in September 1864 and of the views of Atlanta diarist S. P. Richards to describe evolving race relations in the city in the aftermath of the war and Reconstruction. Picking up the story after Reconstruction, Professor Eskew will trace the hardening of the color line in the city, state, and region in the last decade of the 19th and first decade of the 20th centuries. Professor Akinyele Umoja will follow with an overview of “Booker T. Washington’s Atlanta Compromise” speech delivered at the Cotton States and International Exposition at Piedmont Park (1895) and the response of W. E. B. Du Bois. Lunch at a restaurant with southern cuisine will be devoted to the working groups and discussion of the resources available for their lesson plans on an Atlanta landmark and how they can design them to fit into units on 20th-century American history. Professors Venet, Umoja, and Eskew will conduct site visits and lectures at Oakland Cemetery and Piedmont Park. At Oakland Cemetery, Dr. Venet will lead a discussion on the current issue of Civil War memorials. Summer Scholars will gather in midafternoon to work on lesson plans under the direction of Dr. Eskew and Ms. Battle.
Day Three
Dr. Akinyele Umoja will lead a lecture tour of Stone Hall (1882) of Atlanta University Center, the landmark where W.E. B. Du Bois wrote the Souls of Black Folk. Summer Scholars will see the Herndon Home, the mansion of Atlanta’s black millionaire. Charles Black, a student leader of the 1960 Atlanta Sit-ins will speak of this campaign on the Atlanta University quad where he helped to organize students before marches and sit-ins over a half century ago. A site visit to the Atlanta University Center colleges will follow. On the Spelman campus, Dr. Beverly Guy Sheftall will lecture on “Women in the Civil Rights Movement” with an emphasis on the student movement that originated on the Atlanta University Center campuses in the 1960s. After lunch in a Soul Food restaurant, Professor Crimmins will lead a lecture tour of the Fox Theater (1928), where Summer Scholars will examine the colored divisions of what was built as a segregated facility: separate entrance, stairs, seating, and rest rooms. After returning to campus. Professor Tiffany Player will lecture on “Constructing a Politics of Slavery at the 1895 Atlanta Cotton States Exposition.”
Day Four Tim Crimmins and Glenn Eskew will lead Summer Scholars on a walking lecture tour by the First Congregational Church, office towers where the headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan were located, Alonzo Herndon’s Barber Shop. On route, he will trace the contours of the 1906 Race Riot, which will end at the site of the Henry Grady Monument, where several bodies of African Americans killed by white rioters were dumped. The lecture tour will continue to the
old Rich’s Department Store, where Martin Luther King was arrested in one of the student sit-ins in 1960. Summer scholars will continue to the State Capitol (1889), built before Jim Crow, but which became the site where Jim Crow laws were passed, where segregation was enforced, and where monuments remain from an era of white supremacy. Dr. Gwen Middlebrooks will meet the Summer Scholars at the site of the Capitol cafeteria and detail her arrest there at the 1960 student sit-in. After lunch at The Varsity, an Atlanta fast-food original, summer scholars will examine the exhibits at the Center for Civil and Human Rights. After returning to the residence hall, Dr. Akinyele Umoja will discuss with the scholars Martin Luther King’s Drum Major speech in preparation for the Thursday program. Over a light supper, Connie Curry, a white veteran of the student movement will describe her experiences crossing the color line in the late 1950s and assisting with the sit-ins in the 1960s.
Day Five Summer Scholars will take a walking lecture tour of Auburn Avenue, the heart of the African American business district, which emerged after the 1906 Race Riot. They will visit Big Bethel AME Church, where Bishop Henry McNeal Turner preached; the Odd Fellows Building, which housed African American retail businesses, a theater, and offices for black professionals; the Prince Hall Masons Building, where Martin Luther King Jr. headquartered the SCLC when he returned to Atlanta in 1960; Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King was pastor; and the King birth home and grave site. They will also see the residential and business neighborhoods that supported the city’s black middle class and spawned opposition to the color line in the 1940s and 1950s that came to fruition in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. Summer Scholars will hear a presentation by Professor Maurice Hobson on Post-Civil-Rights Atlanta and the Residual of the Color Line. The afternoon will be devoted to working group lesson plans.
Odd Fellows Building c. 1925
Auburn Avenue 1960s Big Bethel AME and Odd Fellows

Prince Hall Masons Building, today
Dr. King at SCLC Office
Prince Hall Masons Building

Ebenezer Baptist Church, today
Dr. King preaching in Ebenezer
Baptist Church

Martin Luther King, Jr Birth Home, today
Dr. King in front of his birth home
Day Six Dr. Glenn Eskew will lecture about "Memorializing the Civil Rights Movement in Atlanta and the South." Professor Veronica Newton will lecture on “The Lasting Legacy of Segregation.” The final session of the workshop will be devoted to presentations by Summer Scholars of their lesson plans and related projects that will show how they can use what they learned from their study of civil rights history and Atlanta landmarks to mark the rise and fall of the color line in 20th-century American history. The session will conclude by 3:30, at which time buses will take Summer Scholars to the airport.