

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

Tomiko Brown-Nagin, “The Roots of Pragmatism,” *Courage to Dissent: Atlanta and the Long History of the Civil Right Movement* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

David Blight, “Prologue” and “Epilogue.” *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2001).

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

Wendy Hamand Venet, Chapter 9 “Rebuilding,” *A Changing Wind: Commerce and Conflict in Civil War Atlanta* (Yale University Press, 2014).

Joseph O. Jewell. “Mixing Bodies and Minds: Race, Class and ‘Mixed Schooling’ Controversies in New Orleans and Atlanta, 1874–87,” *Patterns of Prejudice*, 2014, 25-27, 39-45.

Allison Dorsey. “Phoenix Rising,” *To Build Our Lives Together: Community Formation in Black Atlanta, 1875-1906*. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2004).

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

W. E. B. Du Bois, “Wings of Atlanta,” “Of the Dawn of Freedom,” “Of Booker T. Washington and Others” *Souls of Black Folk* (Chicago: A.C. McClurg, and Co., 1903).

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

Howell Raines, *My Soul Is Rested* (N.Y.: Viking Penguin, 1983 (c1977)).

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

2. Documentary Reading

Herman E. Talmadge, *You and Segregation* (Birmingham: Vulcan Press, 1955), pp. 75-79.

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

David Godshalk. “The Ghosts of a Riot Past,” *Veiled Visions: The 1906 Race Riot and the Reshaping of American Race Relations*. University of North Carolina Press, 2005.

Clifford Kuhn, “There’s a Footnote to History! Memory and the History of Martin Luther King’s October 1960 Arrest and Its Aftermath,” *Journal of American History*, (September 1997), pp. 583-595.

2. Documentary Readings

Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States, 379 U.S. 241 (1964) Argued October 5, 1964, Decided December 14,

<https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/379/241/case.html> (Look at Page 379 U. S. 247 and Page 379 U. S 248 that base the prohibition of discrimination on the right of Congress to regulate interstate commerce.)

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 Scott 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 Beg 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

Glenn Eskew, "Coretta Scott King," in Ann Short Chirhart and Kathleen Ann Clark, eds, *Georgia Women: Their Lives and Times*, Volume 2 (University of Georgia Press, 2014), 344-368.

Alice Walker, *In Search of our Mother's Gardens*: "The Civil Rights Movement," "Choice: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," "Coretta King: revisited."

New Georgia Encyclopedia: Martin Luther King, Jr.

<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/martin-luther-king-jr-1929-1968> and Coretta Scott King <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/coretta-scott-king-1927-2006>

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.democracynow.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

W. Fitzhugh Brundage, "Introduction" and "Conclusion," *The Southern Past: A Clash of Race and Memory* (Harvard University Press, 2005).

Glenn T. Eskew, "Exploring Civil Rights Heritage Tourism" in David Sjoquist, ed., *Past Trends and Future Prospects* (Lexington Books, 2009).

Clayton, Hewett, Hall, "Atlanta and 'the Dream,'" in David Sjoquist, ed.,

Past Trends and Future Prospects (Lexington Books, 2009).

2. The 1996 Olympics and Beyond Documents. “Racial Harmony a Key for Atlanta,” *New York Times*, 19 Sep 1990. Photographs—The Margaret Mitchell House renovated for the 1996 Olympics, before renovation in 1996, on fire in 1995, and a burned hulk, 1995. Alexander Stille, “Who Burned Atlanta,” *The New Yorker*, July 29, 1996. Cynthia Tucker, “Family exploitation: National treasure belongs in public hands,” *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, March 4, 1998. Cynthia Tucker, “The SCLC has Outlived its Usefulness: Give it a Decent Burial,” *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, May 19, 2010. Jelani Cobb. “The Man Behind Critical Race Theory.” *The New Yorker*, September 13, 2021.