

Summer 2021
History Department
79-104, Global Histories Course Description

Summer One

79-104/S **Global Histories: The Civil Rights Movement and the World**
9 units **MTWRF 2:00pm-3:20pm** **C. Vaughn-Roberson**

Remote Only

Human activity transcends political, geographical, and cultural boundaries. From wars to social movements, technological innovations to environmental changes, our world has long been an interconnected one. Acquiring the ability to understand such transnational and even worldwide processes is an indispensable part of any college education. This course provides students with an opportunity to develop the skills and perspectives needed to understand the contemporary world through investigating its global history. All sections are comparable in their composition of lectures and recitations, required amounts of reading, and emphasis on written assignments as the central medium of assessment. The sections all aim to help students: (1) master knowledge through interaction with the instructors, reading material, and other students, (2) think critically about the context and purpose of any given information, (3) craft effective verbal and written arguments by combining evidence, logic, and creativity, and (4) appreciate the relevance of the past in the present and future.

The Civil Rights Movement and the World

Throughout the twentieth century, the fight for racial justice involved multiple areas of conflict that transcended national borders. The purpose of this course is to understand how global events and crises influenced the ways in which activists understood political power. For example, how did civil rights activists pioneer a global identity for American blacks and how did these identities, in turn, influence activism at home? Answering these questions will require us to discuss various world crises and events and their impact on anti-racist activism at home. This class will cover the League of Nations, the 1917 Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascist Europe, the Second World War, the United Nations, the Cold War, and today's struggle for racial justice. By examining these issues, this class will shed light on the geo-political and socio-economic conditions that shaped the civil rights movement as well as today's activism.