

## History of Black America, Spring 2018

### Final Essay:

**I will choose 3 prompts by Friday (2pm); students must choose and respond to ONE prompt. Due May 8 2pm. Please send essay as an e-mail.**

**Directions:** Please respond to prompts in essay form. The best answers will be those that use historical events, personalities, policies, etc . . . to illustrate significant change and continuity over time, and the role(s) of social, political, and economic forces during the historical moment and/or theme; students can only use relevant source material from our course. All papers should be written in 12 font, Times New Roman, double-spaced. Essays should at least be at least 3 full pages and no more than 5 full pages. No cover page. *Chicago Manual of Style*.

1. Using Anne Moody's *Coming of Age in Mississippi* examine the organizing efforts of SNCC and other civil rights organizations in Mississippi. Also, considering historic events like the March on Washington in 1963 and Freedom Summer in 1964, compare and contrast Moody's experience, as well as other civil rights leaders, in the "Movement" to the national civil rights movement, best represented by activism of MLK, Jr. and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference. \*Pay close attention to organizational and protest strategies used to challenge racial inequality in the South.
2. Using the writings of Malcolm X, Stokely Carmichael, and Bayard Rustin examine their understanding of the civil rights movement. Why did Malcolm X frame the black freedom movement as a national movement rather than a southern movement? Why did he support Black Nationalism and ultimately frame the plight of black people as a human rights issue and not a civil rights issue? What were Carmichael's views of "integration" and the role of whites in the black freedom movement? What was the future of the "movement," according to Rustin? What was the "no-win" policy and why did Rustin critique it? Considering the historical moment (the late 1960s), whose solutions would have worked best? Integration? Black Power? If not one or a combination of these, what alternative or solution would you suggest? Why?
3. Using the articles by Mary L. Dudziak, Matthew Lassiter, and Thomas Sugrue explain how the histories of the Cold War (CW) and the notion of northern segregation changes our historical understanding of the Civil Rights Movement. To do this address, what is the typical representation of the CRM? How do the writings of Dudziak, Lassiter, and Sugrue change this? Also, what roles do the federal government and state governments play in this rethinking of the civil rights movement?
4. Using the writings and speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr., describe King's transformation in his thinking about Civil Rights, and other relevant issues like poverty, violence, and the Vietnam conflict. What is the historical significance of King's thinking on these issues? How do his more recent writings match how he is generally represented in the present? Why do you think the pre-1966 representation of MLK, Jr. still persists?