(3 credits)
Calendar and Syllabus

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Catalog Description: This course examines the quests for full realization of civil rights and social justice in the United States from the late 18th century to the present, paying particular attention to issues of race, gender, and class.

Course Objectives
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Trace the movements and changes in U.S. history which have served to reduce inequalities in race, class, and gender.

• Evaluate the factors which have been decisive in the success of reforms.

• Identify and assess contemporary social justice issues.

• In the context of American history, change in the direction of social justice is always contested but inevitable. That is, in large part, a matter of political process, popular movements, and patience.

• Understand more clearly the ways in which things are structured on a gendered and class and racial basis, and that the power constellations that grow out of society are the ones that are the most dynamic.

• Develop a vocabulary and theoretical framework to address cases of social injustice today and in history.

• Provide a vision of rights, perhaps based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and an articulation of goals.

Overview of Course Content
“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice. . .”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This course asks, “How so?” in the context of American history.
We are going to be looking at American history, our past up to our present, in terms of freedom and civil rights, the franchise, and economic and social welfare, seeing their pursuit as three separate but often overlapping and intertwined stories. (For shorthand purposes, keep in mind the acronym FFW—freedom, franchise, and welfare.) We will trace this pursuit over the course of three centuries, keeping in mind the three (conceptually) separate stages. We will identify the major issues of each stage through the voices of both contemporaries (opponents as well as proponents of change) and modern commentators and scholars. We will watch how and how far we have gone through each of the three stages of progress and try finally to assess just where we are on this journey or arc today.

This is a very important (and ongoing) American story. But it is also, more generally, the story of the modern world, or, to put it another way, the story of the (ongoing) human experience in the modern world.

Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/14-5/19</td>
<td>Read pre-readings before beginning Unit 1</td>
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<td>Unit 1: Laying the Foundations; Discussion Post due by 5/17 by midnight</td>
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<td>Discussion Responses due by 5/19 by midnight</td>
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<td>Case Study #1 Paper due by 5/19 by 5pm</td>
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<td>5/20-5/29</td>
<td>Unit 2: Freedom, Franchise, and Welfare 1780s-1920s; Discussion Post due by 5/26 by midnight</td>
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<td>Discussion Responses due by 5/29 by midnight</td>
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<td>Case Study #2 Paper due by 5/29 by 5pm</td>
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<td>5/30-6/7</td>
<td>Unit 3: Freedom, Franchise, and Welfare 1930s-1970s; Discussion Post due by 6/4 by midnight</td>
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<td>Discussion Responses due by 6/7 by midnight</td>
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<td>Case Study #3 Paper due by 6/7 by 5pm</td>
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Resources: Links to Useful Works

These links will give you useful background information for the course as a whole and also for your research for the case studies.

U.S. History.org: http://www.ushistory.org/
Outlines of U.S. History: http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/publication/2011/04/20110428150452su0.6368306.html#axzz3V3mKUNh1
http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/outlines/history-2005
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/ (note link to search Supreme Court cases)
http://www.historyisaweapon.org/zinnapeopleshistory.html
Liu, Karlan, Schroeder, Keeping Faith with the Constitution, Chapter 1 (e-book)

Unit Assignments

Unit assignments generally have a preliminary reflection activity, readings, a discussion board assignment, and a case study assignment. There is a great deal of outside reading, so be sure to allow sufficient time.

All instructions, readings, discussion board prompts, case study paper instructions, and final paper instructions are located on the course website.

Pre-readings before Unit 1
Unit 1: Laying the Foundations (5/14-5/18)
Preliminary Reflection Activity
Readings
Discussion Board Assignment #1
Case Study Paper #1
Unit 2: Freedom, Franchise, and Welfare 1780s-1920s (5/19-5/27)
Preliminary Reflection Activity
Readings
Discussion Assignment #2
Case Study Paper #2

Preliminary Reflection Activity
Readings
Discussion Assignment #3
Case Study Paper #3

Unit 4: Freedom, Franchise, and Welfare, 1980s-present (6/7-6/17)
Preliminary Reflection Activity
Readings
Discussion Assignment #4
Final Paper