

Pol Thght Malcom X & MLK Jr

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General

Malcolm & Martin

The Political Thought of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and the American Civil Rights Movement 1954–1968

Fall 2021

Tue/Thurs

1:15-3:00

Anderson 36

Barbara Allen

[Office Hours](#) by Appt Mon-Thurs


Confirm Location

[Zoom Office](#)

Zoom Meeting Space for breakout sessions and other group activities

<https://carleton.zoom.us/j/98411123793?pwd=VVFmckVMOFavY0NkQ2hKMmRpNjJIQT09>

Additional Zoom info: Meeting ID: 984 1112 3793 Passcode: 519119 One tap mobile +13017158592,,98411123793# US (Washington DC); +13126266799,,98411123793# US (Chicago)

 [About the Course](#)


Contains information on assignments and grading. Please read

 [Announcements](#)


 [Ideas and Info](#)

Welcome to a forum where you can add ideas and [announcements](#).

Assignments

 [Essay One](#)

1) Choose an area of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s political thought to explain and analyze in a 3-5 page argument. 2) Next, consider any of the media representations of King's actions, motivations, and philosophy. In 1-2 additional pages discuss the accuracy/truthfulness/fairness of the representation(s). You may focus on a news report, a film, or any other communication medium from our coursework. You may integrate these two main themes of your work or present your analysis in two parts (i.e. you may frame the essay as a critique of media representations, present the media representation and MLK's political thought in tandem, drawing a conclusion about both OR you may present the discussion of MLK's thought as part 1 and the media representation as part 2 and draw a conclusion, pulling the two parts together. The specific approach to your presentation is your choice. The final submission will be from 5-7 pages in length, not including references/bibliography. Consult the external links to the [Williams College Library](#) pages on reference styles. You may use any still that you wish, but use the style consistently.

 [Essay Two](#)

1) Choose an area of Malcolm X's political thought to explain and analyze in a 3-5 page argument. 2) Next, consider any of the media representations of King's actions, motivations, and philosophy. In 1-2 additional pages discuss the accuracy/truthfulness/fairness of the representation(s). You may focus on a news report, a film, or any other communication medium from our coursework. You may integrate these two main themes of your work or present your analysis in two parts (i.e. you may frame the essay as a critique of media representations, present the media representation and Malcolm X's political thought in tandem, drawing a conclusion about both OR you may present the discussion of Malcolm X's thought as part 1 and the media representation as part 2 and draw a conclusion, pulling the two parts together. The specific approach to your presentation is your choice. The final submission will be from 5-7 pages in length, not including references/bibliography. Consult the external links to the [Williams College Library](#) pages on reference styles. You may use any still that you wish, but use the style consistently.

[Essay 3](#)

1) Choose one or more of the films, interviews, musical compositions, artworks, or other visual/text media that we have considered as representations of King, Malcolm X, the various movements and actions taken to achieve civil and human rights. 2) Choose some aspect of the media representations of the Chauvin verdict and/or any other contemporary media representation of contemporary event(s) related to the subjects we've discussed in class. 3) Write a 5-7 page analytical essay in which you compare and contrast the representations of persons, organizations, causes or ideas in the two time periods. Explain and evaluate the significance of the cultural artifacts (art, music, news, or other media representations time 1 and time 2) that you've chosen. What can you say, in conclusion, about the representation of political ideas and events and how these representations influence our/your thinking and action?

[Paragraph Assignment 19 Sept](#)

Upload paragraph about the following for discussion 19 September

The opening sentence of the Preface reads:

Almost as color defines vision itself, race shapes the cultural eye--what we do and do not notice, the reach of empathy and the alignment of response.

Write a paragraph stating some of your thoughts about:

- 1) the metaphor--color for the eye and race for the "cultural eye"
- 2) the claim or idea that Branch is expressing
- 3) any examples you may have that suggest what is true/not true about this claim and/or this analogy-- race is like color, "cultural eye," color : vision :: race : empathy & response

[Self Editing Handout](#)

12 September - 18 September

Part 1 The Cultures of Jim Crow

Thurs Sept 16 Introductory Overview of American Democracy and Legal Impediments to Equality

Read: Taylor Branch. 1988. Parting the Waters. New York: Simon and Schuster. [Preface](#)

[Scene on Radio](#) Podcasts You might check out especially Seeing White Parts [ONE](#) and [TWO](#).

The legal development in 19th Century cover the following documents, which are listed for your reference

[Declaration of Independence](#) (1776), [U.S. Constitution](#) Art. I, Sect. 2 and Sect. 9; Article IV, Sect 2, Sect. 3, and Sect 4 (1789), [Fugitive Slave Act](#) (1793), [Dred Scott v Sanford](#) (1856), [Reconstruction Amendments](#), [Civil Rights Act](#) (1866, 1870, 1871 & 1875), Black Codes ([Examples from Texas](#)), [Slaughterhouse Cases](#) (1873) [also see [this citation](#)], [Civil Rights Cases](#) (1883), [Plessy v Ferguson](#) (1896), [Brown I](#) and [Brown II](#) (1954)

19 September - 25 September

Part 2 King's Political Thought

Tues Sept 21 Background on Black Church

Taylor Branch. 1988. *Parting the Waters*. New York: Simon and Schuster. [Ch1, 3](#) (Note that Ch 1 is in file with preface linked above); Richard Allen [1833]. "[The Origins of the African Methodist Episcopal \[AME\] Church](#)," (on line in Richard Allen, *The Life, Experience, and Gospel Labours of the Rt. Rev. Richard Allen*) and linked here as "[Richard Allen Describes the Founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church](#)," in Bracey et al. [4-10](#) and Bishop Daniel Payne. 1970. [1891] "[Contributions of the Negro Church](#)," in John H. Bracey, Jr. et al. *Black Nationalism in America*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill. [11-13](#).

Thurs Sept 23 Civil Disobedience, Constitutionalism, and Christianity

Discuss the idea of civil disobedience in two contexts, US Constitution and "civil religion" in our main case, "Letter from the Birmingham City Jail," integrating discussion of readings from 9/14

Read MLK "[Letter from the Birmingham Jail](#)" Eight Alabama Clergymen, "[Go Slow, Dr. King!](#)"

Dale Kussakoff. September 9, 2001. "[Lessons of Might and Right](#)," *Washington Post Magazine*. 23-39.

Taylor Branch. *Parting the Waters*. [18-19](#).

Optional: from Reinhold Niebuhr. 1944. *The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness*. Charles Scribner's Sons. [16-23](#).

Martin Luther King on Meet the Press 1965



[Three Audio Files: Birmingham Jail Letter, Montgomery March, Holt St. Church 1954](#) Uploaded 31/10/17, 13:01

0:00 / 0:00

Holt Street Church Speech 1954 starts about half-way through file

26 September - 2 October

Tues Sept 28 Civil Disobedience and Federalism

Read: [Barbara Allen "MLK's Civil Disobedience and the American Covenant Tradition" Publius: The Journal of Federalism. 30\(4\) 71-113.](#)

Taylor Branch. [Parting the Waters. 4.](#)

Wed Sept 29 Before class on Thursday watch [Freedom on My Mind](#) a documentary by Connie Field and Marilyn Mumford 1994 110 min Log in to Kanopy, a database you can access through the Gould Library. The film is at

<https://carleton.kanopy.com/video/freedom-my-mind-0>

Thurs Sept 30 Montgomery and Nonviolent Direct Action

Read MLK *Stride Toward Freedom*, "[Nonviolence and Racial Justice](#)," "[The Most Durable Power](#)," "[The Power of Non-Violence](#)," "[An Experiment in Love](#)," "[Our Struggle](#)," "[Walk for Freedom](#)" "[My Trip to The Land of Gandhi](#)," "[Love, Law, and Civil Disobedience](#)," "[The Social Organization of Nonviolence](#)"

Taylor Branch. *Parting the Waters*. [Ch 5](#)

Optional (we discuss again in later classes): Mary Fair Burks, "[Trailblazers: Women in the Montgomery Bus Boycott](#)" in Vicki Crawford, et al. eds. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers & Torchbearers*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.



[Quotation from Paul Tillich](#)

3 October - 9 October

Before Tues Oct 5 class, watch [Selma](#), 2014, Ava DuVernay, 128 min

Tues Oct 5 King and Media Representations

Read MLK and James Kilpatrick Guests on "[The Nation's Future](#)" 26 Nov 1960

King on Equality, Justice, and Political Liberty

Read MLK "[A Testament of Hope](#)," "[Equality Now: The President Has the Power](#)," "[The Case Against Tokenism](#)," "[If the Negro Wins, Labor Wins](#)," "[The Ethical Demands for Integration](#)" "[Facing the Challenge of a New Age](#)," "[The Rising Tide of Racial Consciousness](#)," "[Give Us The Ballot](#)," "[Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution](#)," "[Black Power Defined](#)"

Taylor Branch. [Parting the Waters](#). Ch. 10

Listen:

Martin Luther King Speaks in New York City on the

12 September 1962

Thurs Oct 7 King on History, "Race," the Individual, and Social Progress — and Obstacles

Read MLK "[Bold Design for a New South](#)," "[Behind the Selma March](#)," "[The Current Crisis in Race Relations](#)," "[Who Speaks for the South](#)," "[Next Stop: The North](#)," "[Where do We Go From Here?](#)" "[Transcript of 'Meet the Press'](#)"

Taylor Branch. [Parting the Waters](#). Ch. 12

WATCH: [Martin Luther King at Stanford University](#) 14 April 1967

WATCH:

 [Martin Luther King interviewed by Sander Vanocur](#)

10 October - 16 October

Tues Oct 12 Love as Power

Read MLK "[Suffering and Faith](#)," "[A Gift of Love](#)," "[I see the Promised Land](#)" From *Strength to Love*, "Love in Action," "Love Your Enemies," "[Three Dimensions of a Complete Life](#)," "[What is Man?](#)" "[Shattered Dreams](#)"

Read Draft of "[Love in Action](#)" [Here](#); [See King's outline here](#)

Listen to "Loving Your Enemies"

"

[Read one version of "Loving Your Enemies" Here](#)

Taylor Branch. [Parting the Waters. Ch. 14](#)

Thurs Oct 14 The Beloved Community as Political Community—Beyond Desegregation, beyond America

Read "[I Have a Dream](#)," "[Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech](#)," "[A Time To Break Silence](#)," "[I've been to the Mountaintop](#)"

Taylor Branch [Parting the Waters. Ch. 22-23](#)

*** [Essay One Due 11:55 pm Moodle Upload](#) ***

17 October - 23 October

MONDAY Oct 18 MIDTERM BREAK

Part 3 Malcolm X's Political Thought

Tues Oct 19 Jim Crow in the North and Black Nationalism

Listen to Malcolm X with Alex Haley. 1964. [Autobiography of Malcolm X](#). New York Ballentine Books audio books.

OR

Read Malcolm X with Alex Haley. 1964. [Autobiography of Malcolm X](#). New York Ballentine Books.

Read: Intro, Ch 1–9, Fredrick Douglass "[Our Elevation as a Race:](#)" [A Leader of the Kansas Exodus,](#)" ["We Wanted to Go;](#)" Marcus Garvey, "[Ethiopia Shall Once More See the Day of Glory;](#)" W.E.B. Dubois, "[The Negro People as a Race Have a Contribution to Make to Civilization...Which No Other Race Can Make.](#)" all in John H. Bracey, Jr. et al Eds.1970. *Black Nationalism in America*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill.

WATCH an example of news coverage of Malcolm X at this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq-Q-omi3U8>

Chicago NBC Affiliate WMAQ,"City Desk," 17 March 17 1963 Malcolm X interviewed by Jim Hurlbut, Floyd Kalber, Len O'Connor, and Charles McCuen

Thurs Oct 21 The Nation of Islam and American Democracy

Listen to the [Autobiography of Malcolm X](#) from Chapter 10-19, and the epilogue,"Ossie Davis on Malcolm X." Chapter 10 begins at 1:45:46 into the audio book.

Or Read these chapters and the epilogue at above link.

Read: Elija Muhammad, "[Separation of the So-Called Negroes](#)" and "[Minister Malcolm X Enunciates The Muslim Program,](#)" both in John H. Bracey, Jr. et al. Eds. *Black Nationalism in America*.

Ossie Davis discusses his eulogy

24 October – 30 October

MON Oct 25 Watch Film

[Malcolm X His Own Story as it Really Happened](#), Arnold Perl, 1972, 91 min

Watch News Broadcast Mike Wallace and Louis Lomax. CBS News. 1959. [The Hate that Hate Produced](#) *The American Experience: Malcolm X*, 94 min.

Before Tues Oct 26 class respond to the Q&A forum below

Tues Oct 26 Malcolm X on Equality, Justice, and Political Liberty

Read from *Malcolm X Speaks*: "[A Message to the Grassroots](#)," "[A Declaration of Independence](#)" "[With Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer](#)," "[To Mississippi Youth](#)," "[Prospects for Freedom in 1965](#)," "[After the Bombing](#)"

Listen:

"A Message to the Grassroots" 10 November 1963 [Text](#) and Audio recording

"A Declaration of Independence" 12 March 1964 [Text](#) and Audio recording

udio

"After the Bombing" 14 February 1965 [Text](#) and Audio recording

[Text of "God's Judgment of White America"](#) 4 December 1963

"Chickens Come Home to Roost" comment (on the assassination of John F. Kennedy) explained

Optional Performance of Play "[When the Chickens Come Home to Roost Pts 1 and 2](#)." 1982. Written by Lawrence Holder, starring Denzel Washington. Log In and view at Carleton Carleton [OnLine Video](#)

Thurs Oct 28 Malcolm X on History, "Race," the Individual, Society, and Political Institutions

Read from *Malcolm X Speaks*: "[The Ballot or the Bullet](#)," "[The Black Revolution](#)," "[The Harlem 'Hate-Gang' Scare](#)," "[Confrontation with an Expert](#)," from *By Any Means Necessary*: "[Answers to Questions at the Militant Labor Forum](#)," "[Harlem and the Political Machines](#)," "[Founding Rally of OAAU](#)," "[Second Rally of OAAU](#)," "[Homecoming Rally of OAAU](#)," from *Last Speeches*: "[20 Million Black People ...](#)," "[America's Gravest Crisis Since the Civil War](#)"

Listen to Ballot or the Bullet 12 April 1964

[The Ballot or the Bullet](#)

Watch Speech and read Text of Founding Rally of OAAU 28 June 1964

[Text](#)

Watch Democracy is Hypocrisy 2 February 1965 in Carleton OnLine Video collection

[Democracy is Hypocrisy](#)

CBC Archived Speech Starts at 3:38. But consider listening to the framing narrative for this speech (play the video from the start)

[CBC Archived Speech](#)



[Group Compare & Contrast Ideas](#)

Divide into 5 groups. Compare and contrast Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. using the following speeches.

Grp Malcolm X	Martin Luther King, Jr.
I. Ballot or Bullet	Give Us the Ballot, N-V& Racial Justice
Black Rev	

Thurs: Whatever is necessary

ii. Harlem Hate-Gang	Ethical Demand Integration, Next Stop the North,
Harlem & machine pol	Gift Of Love

Thurs: At Audubon

III. Confrontation w Expert	Case Against Tokenism, Letter B-ham Jail
Q&A	

Thurs: Interview AB Spellman

IV. OAAU Founding Social	Org N-V, Promis Land
Second OAAU	
Homecoming OAAU	

Thurs: Short Statements

V. 20 Million	Current Crisis Race Relations, Rising Tide Racial Cons.
America Gravest Crisis	

Thurs: Young Socialist Interview

ASK QUESTIONS

My Qs for you

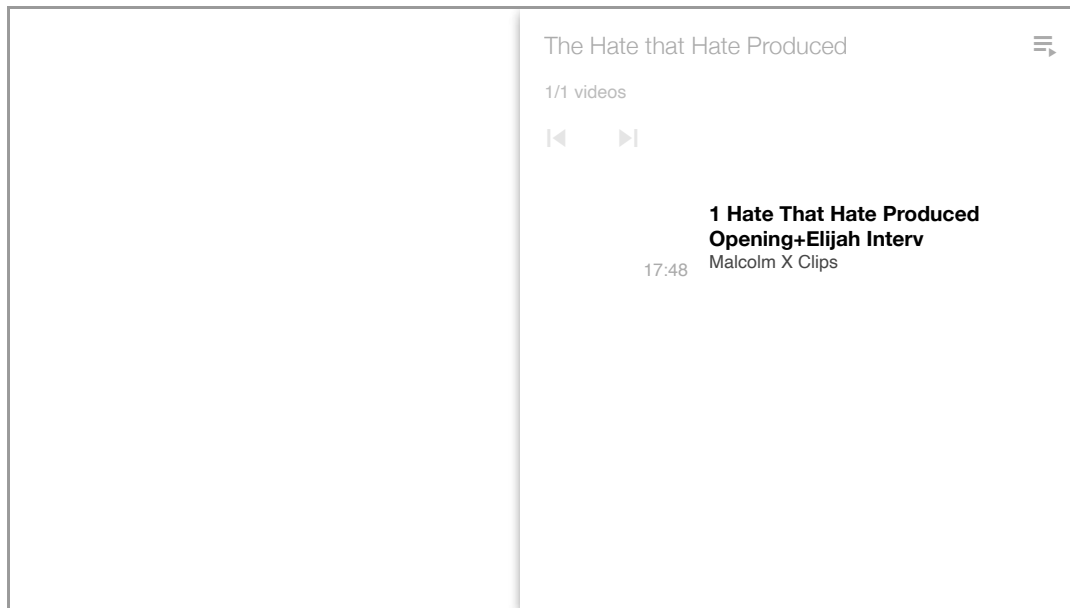
1. How does/has A) Framing and B) Priming influence(d) evaluation, meaning, understanding?

What ideas, words, images, etc? What considerations are brought up for making evaluations and choices?

2. By what terms do you compare/contrast? Some ideas: meaning of person, community, race; View of history, governance, government, authority, force, choice, freedom, gender.

3. What do you want to know? Why compare/contrast these two?
4. What will you do to compare/contrast? Assign tasks. What history do you need, ect.?
5. What beliefs and assumptions influence you? What hypotheses start your searches and analyses?
6. What are alternative frames, hypotheses, starting points, beliefs, assumptions?

 [Watch and Reflect on The Hate that Hate Produced](#)



Review videos posted for this week and the clip from Hate that Hate Produced and write about your immediate reflections here.

31 October - 6 November

Part 4 Powerful Perceptions, Deficiencies, and Legacies

Mon Nov 1 View Film

[Malcolm X](#), 1992, Spike Lee, 202 min.

Read: D. Quentin Miller. 2013. "[Lost and...Found?](#)" [James Baldwin's Script and Spike Lee's Malcolm X](#)," *African American Review*. 46(4) 671-685.

Tues Nov 2 Media Representations and Movement Responses

No reading assignment. Watch films and respond to the Q&A forum below

"Eyes on the Prize V 1, Ain't Scared Of Your Jails, Fighting Back (1957-62)" and "Eyes on the Prize V 2, No Easy Walk (1962-65)" Link to all episodes of [Eyes on the Prize](#).

Bring contemporary media examples to class for discussion (any medium, including music)

Thurs Nov 4 Movement Organization — Hierarchy and Grass Roots —The Black Church and early Black Political Associations, Participatory Democracy and "Organization" as Response to Government (In)action

Read Mamie Locke, "[Is this America?](#)" Carol Mueller, "[Ella Baker and the Origins of Participatory Democracy](#)"; Grace J. McFadden "[Septima Clark and the Struggle for Human Rights](#)"; Mary Fair Burks, "[Trailblazers: Women in the Montgomery Bus Boycott](#)," all in Vicki Crawford, et al. eds. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers & Torchbearers*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Review Malcolm X [Enunciates the Muslim Program](#) and speeches at the [three rallies](#) of the [OAAU](#); MLK, [Why We Can't Wait and Where Do We Go from Here?](#)

Gender & Class in Nationalist and Civil Rights Movements

James H. Cone. 1991. "[Nothing but Men](#)," *Martin and Malcolm in America*. New York: Maryknoll, 272–287. Charles Payne, "[Men Led, but Women Organized](#)" and Vicki Crawford "Beyond the Human Self," both in Vicki Crawford, et al. eds. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers & Torchbearers*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.



[BEFORE CLASS TUES NOV 2: Watch and Reflect on Clips from Malcolm X Spike Lee 1992](#)

Watch the clips in this playlist and record your immediate

Malcolm X Spike Lee

1/8 videos

14 MALCOLM X Media Representation
Malcolm X Clips
2:40

13 MALCOLM X Betty
Malcolm X Clips
2:02

12 Malcolm X Street Corner
Malcolm X Clips
2:03

11 MALCOLM X Our Women
Malcolm X Clips
1:36

reflections on each clip

here.



[Forum for Posting reflections to interviews and other videos Thurs Nov 4](#)


Before Class on Thursday watch the videos about Ella Baker, Septima Clark and Fannie Lou Hamer and post reflections here here



[Watch for class Nov 4: Ella Baker Speaks](#)

Audio of a 1974 oral history captured by Eugene Walker

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Ella Baker: A Legacy of Grassroots Leadership](#)

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Cornel West: Thoughts on Ella Baker](#)

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Septima Clark](#)

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Fannie Lou Hamer Speech 1964 and Lyndon Johnson Speech 1964](#)

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Fannie Lou Hamer Speech 1964 DNC](#)

 [Watch for class Nov 4: Fannie Lou Hamer Interview 1968](#)

Interview

7 November - 13 November

Mon Nov 8 ***** [Essay Two](#) Due **11:55 pm Moodle Upload** *****

Tues Nov 9 Self Defense

Read from *Malcolm X Speaks*: "[At the Audubon \(Dec 13 & 20\)](#);" from *By Any Means Necessary*: "[Interview by A.B. Spellman](#)," "[Young Socialist Interview](#)," *From Last Speeches*: "[Whatever is Necessary to Protect Ourselves](#)"

WATCH Interviews with Malcolm posted below from the film *Malcolm X: Make It Plain*, David McCullough, 150 min. Post your reflections. You can also watch the entire film:

[Malcolm X: Make It Plain](#)

Thurs Nov 11 Beyond America — Black Nationalism, Pan-Africanism

Watch:

After Travels Abroad, Malcolm X 5, CBC Interview on Front Page Challenge, January 5, 1965

[Front Page Challenge](#)

Read from *Malcolm X Speaks*: "[Letters from Abroad](#)," "[Appeal to African Heads of State](#)," "[Last Answers and Interviews](#);" from *By Any Means Necessary*: "A [Letter from Cairo](#)," "[A Meeting in Paris](#)," "[An Exchange on Casualties in the Congo](#)," "[On Being Barred From France](#);" from *Last Speeches*: "[Our People Identify with Africa](#)," "[There's a Worldwide Revolution Going On](#)," "[Not Just an American Problem, but a World Problem](#)"

14 November - 20 November

Tues Nov 16 Significance of Martin & Malcolm Today

Read Cornel West. 1993. "[Malcolm X and Black Rage](#)" *Race Matters*. Boston: Beacon Press. 95-105.

***** **Essay Three Due 11:55 pm Moodle Upload** *****

Thurs Nov 18 Final Presentations of Research as ONLINE e-portfolio

You are logged in as Barbara Allen: Student (Return to my normal role)
Home

Carleton Links

- Gmail
- The Hub
- WebPrint
- Directory
- LinkedIn Learning
- Gould Library
- Gould Guides
- BN Adoption and Insights
- Faculty/Staff Gateway
- Carleton Moodle Docs
- Student Gateway