

HST 496: Civil Rights in America

Professor Stephen Jones
#22273151 / M 3:30-6:20 p.m.

History 496 is a senior seminar with the goal of producing a substantial research project, and the focus of this section will be civil rights in America. From the adoption of the Bill of Rights in 1791 to recent court rulings on marriage equality, the religious rights of private employers, the government's ability to hold U.S. citizens without trial as enemy combatants, and the right of women to receive equal pay for equal work, no aspect of American life has been untouched by disputes over civil rights. College admission practices, treatment of gays and lesbians in the military, access to public buildings for people with physical disabilities, militarization of police departments, application of the death penalty, the status of Native Americans, enforcement of immigration laws, and a multitude of other issues revolve around how Americans define civil rights and what we are willing to do to guarantee those rights to all people. Our goal in this course will be to achieve a deeper understanding of civil rights that begins with — but stretches far beyond — the familiar Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Students will be encouraged to develop research projects that connect civil rights issues with historical events and periods in which they have particular interest.

"If the events of September 11, 2011 have proven anything, it's that the terrorists can attack us, but they can't take away what makes us American — our freedom, our liberty, our civil rights. No, only Attorney General John Ashcroft can do that." — *Jon Stewart*

"A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men." — *Gloria Steinem*

"I know, up on top you are seeing great sights, but down here at the bottom we, too, should have rights." — *Dr. Seuss*

"The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it." — *Chief Joseph*

"Get up, stand up. Stand up for your rights.
Get up, stand up. Don't give up the fight."
— *Bob Marley*



"It takes no compromise to give people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression."

— *Harvey Milk*