THE FANNIE LOU HAMER INSTITUTE @ COFO
SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
JUNE 24 - JULY 2, 2016

Mississippi Civil Rights Movement:
Black Power and the Voices of Freedom

CURRICULUM

Suggested Texts:
Moody, Ann. 1968. Coming of Age in Mississippi.*

* Participants should read before the program.

Friday, June 24, 2016
1:00-8:00 Arrival and Check-in
6:00-8:00 Welcome Reception at the COFO Educational Center
Session One: Saturday, June 25, 2016
Framing the Themes

9:00      Introductions
10:00     Slavery & The Era of Jim Crow
          TBA

In this session, faculty will set out the story of resistance that characterized black life under slavery. Resistance and struggle was endemic under slavery, from the moment of capture, through the middle passage, and once on the shores of the New World. The morning presentation will be a discussion of the early black experience as one of struggle and resistance within the context of American growth and "progress." The discussion of resistance will focus on physical resistance in its many facets, including abolitionism. This session will also give attention to how African Americans, beginning in the Reconstruction era, asserted themselves and found ways to create and sustain institutions that would uplift, strengthen, and advance the race, despite imposed racial boundaries in the era of Jim Crow.


Suggested Video: *The Rise & Fall of Jim Crow*

11:30     Lunch (On Your Own)

12:30     Walking Tour of Civil Rights
1:30      Tour of Historic Jackson Civil Rights Sites

We will visit the Masonic Temple (birthplace of the Freedom Democratic Party), the Council of Federated Organizations building (the state-wide headquarters of Freedom Summer), Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church and Parsonage (meeting sites during Freedom Summer), and a Freedom house. We will also visit the Old Jackson Municipal Library (Tougaloo 9) Greyhound Bus Station (1961 Freedom Rides), State Fairgrounds and Farish Street. The tour will visit Medgar Evers’ home and museum and Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi.

5:00      Museum Tour and Welcome Dinner —Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center

The Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center is the site of Jackson's first school for African-American children and showcases the history and achievements of African-American Mississippians. Future literary giant Richard Wright attended school here where he was valedictorian of his junior high class. In the year of 1923, while attending Smith Robertson Junior High School, Wright's first short story, "The Voodoo of Hill's Half-Acre," was published in the Jackson Southern Register.
Sunday, June 26, 2016

The tours provided during this day will not be conducted by The Hamer Institute @ COFO. We are providing transportation only.

Memphis Music Attraction

Get to know the musical history of Memphis with this comprehensive Music Attraction Discount Pass. Enjoy admission to four of the most popular Memphis attractions: Graceland, the famous home of Elvis Presley; the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the world’s only museum dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of American soul music; the Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum and Sun Studio, a recording studio opened by rock pioneer Sam Phillips that’s well known as the birthplace of rock and roll.

9:30 – 12:00 noon – Graceland – Platinum Package
Inside the Graceland Mansion, enjoy the unlimited access a Platinum Ticket Package provides. Follow in the footsteps of Elvis Presley on an audio tour narrated by John Stamos. This multimedia presentation features commentary and stories by Elvis and his daughter Lisa Marie. It’s a very personal look inside the home of the king of rock and roll. Also, see his gold records, stage costumes and jewelry. And enjoy a self-guided tour of Elvis' jets, the Elvis Presley Automobile Museum, featuring his famous 1955 pink Cadillac and more.
Open: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
2.5 hour - Self Guided
Contact Person: Carletter Windbush

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm – LUNCH

1:45 pm – 3:50 pm - Stax Museum of American Soul Music
The Stax Museum of American Soul Music pays tribute to not only the many artists who recorded there, at the original site of Stax Records, but also other American soul legends. Explore the rare collection of more than 2,000 artifacts, interactive exhibits, films and galleries that features Tina Turner's clothing, a Cadillac belonging to Isaac Hayes and much more.
Open 1:00 pm -5:00 pm
2 hours - Self Guided

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm - Sun Studios
Sun Studio is the birthplace of rock and roll and the most famous recording studio in the world. This is the very place where Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison and countless other musicians launched their illustrious careers. It's open to the public for daily tours while still serving as a recording studio in the evenings.
Open: 10:30 am – 5:30 pm
1 hour – Guided Tour
5:15 pm – 7:00 pm - The Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum
The Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum highlights the birth of rock and soul music. Created by the Smithsonian Institution, this exhibit tells the story of those musical pioneers who overcame racial and socio-economic barriers to create the sound that changed music as we know it today. Listen to the recordings with a personal audio guide and see the clothing, musical instruments, recording equipment, rare film footage, photographs and vintage jukeboxes from the 1920s and beyond.
Open: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
1.5 hours - Self Guided

Session two: Monday, June 27, 2016
The Development of the Modern-Day Mississippi Movement

9:00 - 10:15  Quest For Progressive Mississippi: The Vision and Quest for Post WWII African American Veterans
Mr. Kendetric Bradley, M.A, History
The African American historical experience has been predominated by several centuries of struggles for both unfettered inclusion in and for citizenship rights as Americans. The non-inclusion of African Americans in all facets of American life had one notable exception—that is, or namely, the former’s participation in all of America’s military encounters, foreign and domestic since the American Revolution. Admittedly, with the exception of only World War II, in each of the other of the nation’s military engagements, Blacks were initially denied participation but later accepted. Black servicemen in World War II, although serving in segregated military units, performed courageously with honor and even distinction as part of a generation of GI’s who have been deemed the greatest generation for their part in saving the world from domination by the Axis Powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan. America’s armed forces personnel’s contributions were not only during the hostility of war time but in the ensuing post-war years as well. In general, the post-war lives, roles, and contributions of American veterans to civilian society have been largely under-reported if not unreported. For minority and ethnic American veterans, this often absence of consideration and reporting of their contributions is more decidedly pronounced. This session will explore African American World War II veterans with an intent to break with the non-investigative and under-reporting pattern on minority veterans while focusing on post-World War II experiences of Black veterans in Mississippi.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30  Regional Council of Negro Leadership and Dr. T.R.M. Howard
Dr. Leslie Burl McLemore, Founding Director, Hamer Institute
The contributions of Dr. T.R.M. Howard and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership (RCNL) will be examined. Dr. Howard’s coalition organization worked closely with the state NAACP and several state based Voter’s Leagues in Mississippi. The RCNL led voter registration drives and boycotted white owned businesses that did not provide rest room facilities for African American citizens.

12:00  Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00–2:15  **Emmett Till**  
Dr. Ivory Phillips, Former Dean College of Education and Human Development, Jackson State University

In this session, FACULTY will explore two common starting points for the Civil Rights movement, the lynching of Emmett Till and the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Though powerfully different stories, in each case the examples of resistance and institutional strength are unmistakable. The Till case reveals the savage resistance of whites to black demands for equality and the increasing unwillingness of African Americans to accept their fate even when the law is utterly against them. The memory of the Till lynching was seared into the memory of Movement activists who shaped both the Mississippi and national movements. The speakers will draw comparisons between what happened to Emmett Till and the inspiration his death provided for the people who lead the boycott in Montgomery. The NAACP, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the church, Alabama State College, the Women’s Political Council, among many more were activated and within a weekend, convinced a black population of 50,000 to boycott the buses for more than one year for cause of human dignity. Here too we meet Rosa Parks, Ralph Abernathy, Jo Ann Gibson Robinson, and Martin Luther King.

*Reading:* Primary documents from Emmett Till.

2:15 – 2:30  **Break**

2:30 – 4:00  **Medgar Evers and the NAACP**  
Mr. Frank Figgers, Strategy Consultant and Civil Rights Activist

This session is designed to discuss the seminal role Medgar Wiley Evers played in the development of the modern-day NAACP in Mississippi. Evers organized and revitalized chapters of the NAACP throughout the state. He provided the infrastructure for the organization. His appointment as the first permanent field secretary of the organization was clearly a watershed in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.


4:00 – 5:00  **Group Work**
Session Three: Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Memphis Field Trip

6:30  Depart for Memphis, TN
      Breakfast on the road
      Video
      *Eyes on the Prize: Keys to the Kingdom*

10:30  National Civil Rights Museum, Part One  [www.civilrightsmuseum.org](http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org)
      The National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, the assassination site of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., chronicles key episodes of the American civil rights movement and the legacy of this movement. The first part of the exhibit portrays the broad sweep of African American history in the United States, with a particular focus on the era of Jim Crow and an emphasis on activities that challenged the structure of Jim Crow, with a particular look at the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike and the assassination of Dr. King.

1:00  Lunch on Beale Street (On your own)
      While Beale Street is currently known nationally as an entertainment district with a focus on the Blues, during the era of Jim Crow, it was the heart of the Black community. On this street is found venues in which famous black artists performed during segregation, the home of W.C. Handy (often known as the “Father of the Blues”), Beale Street Baptist Church where Ida B. Wells’ newspaper The Free Speech was housed, and the studio and now museum honoring Ernest Withers, famed civil rights photographer.

3:00  National Civil Rights Museum, Part Two
      Opened to the public on Sept. 28, 2002, *Exploring the Legacy*, is a 12,800 sq. ft. expansion project aimed at addressing three key questions: 1) Did the Movement die with Dr. King? 2) Was James Earl Ray the assassin? and, 3) What is the legacy of the movement?

5:00  Beale Street and Dinner

7:00  Depart for Jackson, Mississippi
      *Video:* *At the River I Stand*
Session Four: Wednesday, June 29, 2016
The Jackson Movement and Freedom Vote

9:00 The Freedom Vote Campaign, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and Aaron Edd Henry
Dr. K.C. Morrison, Professor and Head of Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Mississippi State University

In early May 1963, the world watched as media coverage showed German Shepherds and fire hoses being used to disperse crowds of young demonstrators in Birmingham, Alabama. Later that month, young people in Jackson, Mississippi, organized the first massive demonstration of the local movement. This session will offer a comparative analysis of the civil rights struggle as it occurred in both cities, while examining those movements through age, class, and gender. In an effort to prove that black Mississippian wanted to be active in local and state politics and participate in the political process, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) orchestrated a massive campaign to register blacks for a mock election in which approximately 80,000 people participated. This session will examine black political disenfranchisement during the civil rights era, voter registration/education, and the significance of the 1963 Freedom Vote campaign and how it set the stage for the organization of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. Gaining the right to vote was the principle goal of Movement activists. For southern blacks, the vote, in a very real and concrete sense, meant power; the power to shape their own political and economic destinies. This session will look at two critically important parts of the struggle for the vote. In the national narrative, Selma looms large in the story of black voting rights. In 1963, under the umbrella of COFO, the Freedom Vote was held and in 1964, the Mississippi Freedom Democratic party was born. Aaron Edd Henry was a Civil Rights icon, community leader, business man and State Legislator. He was a central figure in the Mississippi Freedom Struggle from the 1950’s until his death in 1997. In 1959, he was elected State President of the NAACP, a position he held for 36 years. In 1962 he was one of the founders of the Council of Federated Organization (COFO). COFO was established to serve as the coordinating movement for the major Civil Rights Organizations in Mississippi in the 1960’s. Henry was by far one of the most ecumenical of the major civil rights leaders in Mississippi. He worked closely with CORE, SCLC, SNCC and a variety of community organization. Aaron Henry was chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Delegation to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City in 1964. Henry along with Fannie Lou Hamer and others testified before the Credentials Committee of the National Convention. He and Bob Moses were the chief negotiators on behalf of the Freedom Democrats in 1964.

Readings: Minion K.C. Morrison, Aaron Henry of Mississippi: Inside Agitator
In the next two sessions we hope to compare what has been identified as two very significant events in the development of the Movement in Mississippi and Georgia. The McComb Project marked the beginning of the organized mass movement in the Mississippi. The efforts of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) lead to the first major boycott and protest march in Mississippi in 1961. The Burgland High School students walked out of class and started a series of events that changed McComb and the rest of Mississippi.

**Video:** *Freedom Song*

### 12:30 - 2:00 pm
**Lunch (On your own)**

### 2:00 - 4:00 pm
**Oral History Panel: The Mississippi Summer Project, 1964**
*Overview and moderated by TBD*

**Panelists:**
- *Ed King*—MFDP National Committee and Freedom Vote Candidate
- Panel Member
- Panel Member

The summer of 1964 allowed civil rights groups and activists to work together in Mississippi to expand the voter registration effort. In June 1964, young civil rights workers initiated an aggressive and massive campaign to bring into the state more than 1,000 white northern college students and other professionals to assist in registering black Mississippians to vote. All across the state, civil rights workers and volunteers effectively promoted the goal of the summer project through mass meetings, voter education classes, and the establishment of Freedom Schools and community centers. This session will provide an overview of the organizing efforts, challenges, successes, and failures of the summer project. This session will also introduce an oral history panel of civil rights veterans who will share their memories of “Freedom Summer.”

**Suggested:** Doug McAdam, *Freedom Summer*

**Video:** *Let Freedom Ring: Moments from the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965*

### 4:00 – 5:00
**Group Discussion**
In 1962, James Meredith became a civil rights hero when he enrolled as the first African American student at the University of Mississippi. Four years later, he would make the news again when he reentered Mississippi, on foot. His plan was to walk from Memphis to Jackson, leading a "March Against Fear" that would promote black voter registration and defy the entrenched racism of the region. But on the march's second day, he was shot by a mysterious gunman, a moment captured in a harrowing and now iconic photograph.

What followed was one of the central dramas of the civil rights era. With Meredith in the hospital, the leading figures of the civil rights movement flew to Mississippi to carry on his effort. They quickly found themselves confronting southern law enforcement officials, local activists, and one another. In the span of only three weeks, Martin Luther King, Jr., narrowly escaped a vicious mob attack; protesters were teargassed by state police; Lyndon Johnson refused to intervene; and the charismatic young activist Stokely Carmichael first led the chant that would define a new kind of civil rights movement: Black Power. In this session, Aram Goudsouzian will explore his book, *Down to the Crossroads*. It tells the story of the last great march of the King era, and the first great showdown of the turbulent years that followed. Depicting rural demonstrators' courage and the impassioned debates among movement leaders, Goudsouzian reveals the legacy of an event that would both integrate African Americans into the political system and inspire even bolder protests against it.

**Readings:**  
Aram Goudsouzian, *Down to the Crossroads: Civil Rights, Black Power, and the Meredith March Against Fear*

**11:00 – 12:00 noon**  
Lunch (On your own)

**1:00pm –**  
The Evolution of Black Power and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle- Canton Mississippi

A personal endeavor which turned into a national movement, the March Against Fear, raised concerns about the enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the growing political influence of African Americans in the South. Even after Meredith was shot, this effort to show strength and power continued from Greenwood Mississippi and re-enforced in Canton Mississippi, (Madison County); the home of Annie Divine, C.O. Chinn, Clarice Dillion Coney, Sister Thea Bowman and the first African American woman elected to a county-wide position post – or pre reconstruction, Mrs. Flonzie Goodloe Wright; and many others who played a part of the political influence and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle.

During this session, participants will visit: Sister Thea Bowman’s Home & Holy Child Gymnasium, The Home of Flonzie “Goodloe” Wright, The Madison County Court House, The Multi-Cultural Museum, and a local Freedom House & Cultural Center. Participants will also hear from local heroes and she-roes who played a major role in the Canton Mississippi Freedom Struggle and the Evolution of Black Power.
Session Six: Friday, July 1, 2016
Into the Delta

7:30 Tour bus departs from Campbell College Suites parking lot  
Breakfast on way  
Video: *Eyes on the Prize: Mississippi: Is This America?*

9:30 Greenwood, Mississippi
In Greenwood, the group will learn about the Freedom Summer activities based in that city. Charles McLaurin will describe the role of Jennings Temple C.M.E. Church, where mass meetings were held in the 1960s. Jennings Temple was also the site of several Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party gatherings in 1964. Next the group will visit the Elks Lodge, which hosted the first two SNCC meetings led by Sam Block. The group will also view Friendship Baptist Church, which served as the COFO headquarters after 1963; First Christian Church, home of many SNCC mass meetings; the SNCC office site, and Wesley United Methodist Church, which played a major role in the 1963 Greenwood protest and served as the major location for the distribution of clothes and food to local people during the 1963 boycott of Greenwood merchants. Wesley was also the venue for mass meetings and rallies for the MFDP. The tour also includes the LeFlore County Courthouse—the site where many African Americans were registered to vote in the 1960s.

10:45 Money, Mississippi
On our way to Ruleville, we will stop and see the site of the store at which the exchange between Emmett Till and Carolyn Bryant occurred with such a tragic outcome. This deteriorating building is now a marked Landmark site on the Mississippi Civil Rights Trail.

11:00 Ruleville, Mississippi
The Ruleville tour features a visit to the home sites of Fannie Lou Hamer, the Fannie Lou Hamer Multi-Purpose Complex and the Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Park. We will also view Williams Chapel (Mrs. Hamer’s home church), and the Hamer Early Childhood Center, and conclude with a visit to the gravesites of Mrs. Hamer and her husband Perry “Pap” Hamer.

12:30 Cleveland, Mississippi
Hometown of Amzie Moore, a Black Businessman and NAACP Leader invited SNCC into the delta in 1962. Amzie Moore's business located on highway 61 was subjected to racism. Amzie Moore's Park and marker dedicated to his legacy.

2:00 Clarksdale, Mississippi
Charles McLaurin of the Sunflower/Ruleville Black Historical Society will lead participants in a tour of historical sites, including the former location of Dr. Henry’s Fourth Street Drug Store, a key meeting place for local Civil Rights leaders in Clarksdale. We will retrace “The Freedom March,” which started at the Fourth Street Drug Store, preceded west on Martin Luther King Drive to Yazoo Street, then down East Second Street to the Coahoma County Courthouse on First Street. Next, we will tour Haven United Methodist Church, the home church of Dr. Henry and his wife, Noelle, and daughter, Rebecca. The church was also the venue for local NAACP chapter meetings. Dr. Martin Luther King, Wyatt Tee Walker, Andrew Young, John Lewis, Fannie Lou Hamer and many other Civil Rights leaders spoke at Haven. Next, we will visit Aaron Henry’s campaign headquarters and the former NAACP office. The tour will also take us to other churches where mass meetings were held in the 1960s: Kings Temple Church and Chapel Hill Church. The tour will conclude with a visit to Aaron Henry’s home site.

_Readings:_ Dittmer, chapters 16-18; Payne, chapters 14-epilogue

_Return to Jackson_  
_video:_ *Never Turn Back*
Housing

Institute participants will be housed in Campbell College Suites, located on the main campus of Jackson State University. The dormitory, built in 2007, is a seven-story, air-conditioned structure that offers two-, three-, and four-bedroom suites with a common lounge and two bathrooms per suite. Study rooms are available on each floor, and the dormitory also has a laundry facility, a multi-purpose room, and community kitchen on site. The dormitory is centrally located and close to the H.T. Sampson Library, the university dining hall, the student center that provides several dining options, and several off-campus restaurants.

Jackson State University will grant institute participants access to the H.T. Sampson Library and most of the computer laboratories. In addition, participants will be able to utilize the resources of the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center and the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO Reading Room. Jackson State University is home to several franchise restaurants, a theatre, meeting spaces, and a ballroom.

Institute Participants will have access to the internet while on campus and be able to use the wireless network. We encourage you to bring your own device, although a lab in the library will be available to you throughout the program, it will only be available during its more limited summer hours. Scholars who wish to live outside a dorm environment or will be here with their families should contact us; we will work with you to find alternative housing consistent with your needs.