CURRICULUM
“THE SOUTHERN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:
THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE -
Mississippi and the Black Power Movement

SESSION ONE
Monday, June 13, 2016

9:00am – 9:30am
Opening & Introductory Remarks
Dr. Rico D. Chapman, Jackson State University
Mr. Keith Lamont McMillian, Jackson State University
Mrs. Rose Wright, Bailey APAC Middle School

9:30am – 11:00am
COFO and the Mississippi Movement
Mr. Kendetric Bradley, M.A.

In this session, students will examine the role of The Council of Federated Organizations and the people that were instrumental in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement. COFO was a coalition of the major Civil Rights Movement organizations operating in Mississippi. COFO was formed in 1962 to coordinate and unite voter registration and other civil rights activities in the state and oversee the distribution of funds from the Voter Education Project. It was instrumental in forming the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). COFO member organizations included the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Students will also come to know many of the local people and grass-roots organizers who worked, and in some cases gave their lives, for the cause of civil rights in Mississippi including Fannie Lou Hamer, Victoria Gray and Annie Devine, Medgar Evers, and others.

11:00am – 11:15am
Break

11:15am – 12:45pm
Biography – Mrs. Annie Devine and Victoria Jackson Gray Adams
Mrs. Flonzie Brown Wright

Annie Devine was a mother of four when she got involved with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963, and she quickly became a source of strength for the many young people who came to Mississippi as part of the civil rights movement. A year later she was an integral figure in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP) and its Freedom Summer campaign, traveling to the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City and then to Washington, D.C., to challenge the seating of the state’s all-white congressional delegation. Thanks to those efforts, Devine, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Victoria Gray Adams became the first black women to be seated on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives even as guests, and together they paved the way to greater political, social, and economic power for the next generation.

12:45pm – 2:15pm
Lunch – Heritage Dining Hall

2:30pm – 4:30pm
Lynch Street and the Jackson Civil Rights Movement
Walking Tour – From Jackson State University, participants will learn about the Gowdy Community, visit Rose McCoy Auditorium (College Park), Campbell College, the Gibbs/Green Memorial, Margaret Walker Center, Pratt Memorial United Methodist Church and Parsonage, Pearl Street AME (Zion Travelers), a Freedom House, Mount Olive Cemetery, NAACP, Masonic Temple, the Council of Federated Organizations office.
SESSION TWO
Tuesday, June 14, 2016

9:00 am – 4:30 pm  Jackson Civil Rights Heritage Tour

Pick up at the COFO Civil Rights Education Center, 1017 John R. Lynch Street

9:00 am  Driving Tour – Sites to be explored in the Jackson Civil Rights tour include: Woolworth Counter (Marker), Central High School, Greyhound Bus Station (Marker), Jackson Municipal Library, Mississippi State Fairground, Lanier High School, Mary C. Jones, Old New Hope (Medgar Evers Church), Freedom Corner, Medgar Evers Library

11:00 am  Medgar Evers Home and Museum,

12:30 pm  Smith Roberson Museum
          Farish Street and Downtown Jackson,

3:00 pm  Old Capitol Museum

Return by 4:30 pm (COFO Civil Rights Education Center)
SESSION THREE  
Wednesday, June 15, 2016

9:00 am – 10:30 am  Medgar Evers: Engaging Youth in the Movement  
Mr. Frank Figgers

Medgar Wiley Evers was the first permanent field secretary of the Mississippi National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Evers served in this position from 1954 until his assassination in 1963. He was the major force behind the Jackson Movement and worked very closely with young people across the state. Evers was a major “bridge builder” in the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, reaching out to the other major Civil Rights organizations active in the state in order to better coordinate efforts and activities.

10:30 am – 10:45 am  Break

10:45 am – 12:15 pm  The Origins of Black Power and the Mississippi Movement  
Mukasa Dada (also known as Mr. Willie Ricks)

The rallying cry for the Black Power movement took place in the context of the Mississippi southern civil rights struggle of the mid 1960s. James Meredith set out to march from the Mississippi-Tennessee state line to Jackson, Mississippi. He wanted to demonstrate, in 1966, that Mississippi was a changed state, and that it was safe for a Black man to walk the highways and byways of his native state without being harassed or killed. On the next day, Mr. Meredith was shot outside of Hernando, Mississippi, in DeSoto County. This self proclaimed “walk against fear” lead to the development of “Black Power” in Mississippi. This session will not only introduce participants to a mantra that helped to move the Mississippi freedom struggle forward, but it will be presented by one of the originators, Mukasa Dada aka Mr. Willie Ricks

12:30 am – 1:30 pm  Lunch – Heritage Dining Hall

1:45 pm – 4:30 pm  Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright)  
Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations at family night
SESSION FOUR
Thursday, June 16, 2016
The 50th Commemoration of Black Power

7:30 am  Tour bus departs from Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO
          1017 John Roy Lynch Street, Jackson, MS 39212
          To Greenwood, Mississippi
          Breakfast on way

9:30 am  The 50th Commemoration of the March Against Fear and the Call for Black Power

On Sunday, June 5th, 1966, civil rights activist James Meredith began a 220-mile march against fear from Memphis, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi. Meredith, having integrated the University of Mississippi four years earlier, planned the march to challenge the culture of fear, and to encourage more than four hundred thousand African Americans in Mississippi to register to vote considering the Voting Rights Act passed only a year earlier. On Monday, June 6, the second day of his self-described "walk against fear", Meredith was shot by Aubrey Norvell with a 16 gauge automatic shotgun three times. Through a series of conversations, intergenerational dialogue, and presentations, the purpose of this commemoration is to recognize the bravery and accomplishments of those men and women who were part of the journey in spite of jeopardizing their lives and jobs.

4:30 pm  Depart for Jackson Mississippi

6:00 pm  Arrive in Jackson at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO
SESSION FIVE
Friday, June 17, 2016

9:00 am – 10:30 am Cultural Expressions – Gallery One

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 pm – 12:00 pm Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright)
Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations this evening at family night.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm Preparing presentations (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright)
Students will work on preparing their projects for presentations this evening at family night.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Family Night and Reception (Directed by Mrs. Rose Wright)
Students’ families are invited to see the work of the students and be introduced to the topics studied during the week.
SESSION SIX
Saturday, June 18, 2016
“Down to the Crossroads – Memphis Tennessee”

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

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Meredith and the March Against Fear: Down to the Crossroads
              Dr. Aram Goudsouzian, Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Memphis

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, Meredith made news again as he began his self proclaimed “walk against fear”. 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. 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.

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm Lunch on Beale Street

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.

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm National Civil Rights Museum

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.

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?