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*Curriculum Project for:*  
*“From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike”*

Course: American History from 1945 to the Present

This is an entirely new course that I’ll be teaching for the first time this fall.

Two Major Overall Themes:

1. Focus on a human rights theme throughout all four units of the course.
2. Focus on the contributions of average/local people and how they have impacted our history.

Major Content Additions:

Much of what we experienced and learned this week I will be incorporating into my lecture content. Some of the main content areas will be:

1. The impact of W.W. II on the civil rights movement and leaders
2. Work of Medgar Evers in Mississippi
3. Events in Mississippi to illustrate the overall civil rights movement and how local people made the movement
  - a. Miss. Summer Project
  - b. MFDP
  - c. Freedom Schools
4. Connection between labor rights and civil rights and the Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike
5. Continuing struggle of human rights, women’s rights, the environment, etc.

Projects and Supplemental Materials

I plan to use and develop some of the following into my new course:

1. Oral history component for each student from one of the four units.
2. CD of Freedom Songs to go along with the content of civil rights
3. Develop a pictorial Power Point of civil rights scenes put to a freedom song
4. Order some of the videos and use clips in my course
5. Incorporate some of the primary source documents into my content
6. In each unit, students will be assigned a research/artifact topic. They will present these and then the four that had the same topic will analyze the historic development of their topic over the last 60 years.

Future Projects:

1. Compare news stories over the past 60 years from the *Omaha World-Herald* to the *Omaha Star*-a black newspaper.

2. Develop a local civil rights driving tour in Council Bluffs/Omaha area. Below are a few sample topics:
  - a. Malcolm X birthplace
  - b. Blues Dist. In Omaha (and Jazz)
  - c. State Senator Ernie Chambers
  - d. Race riots
  - e. Ed Farmer
  - f. Underground Railroad (this can be utilized in a local history class that I teach)
  - g. 1919 lynching
  - h. C.B. /BB