

AUMNIBUS

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“Created Equal” Film Series Takes Off

Chad Underwood

This month, AUM is hosting a series of documentary screenings titled Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle. The series will reflect on the historical hardships of the Civil Rights' Movement and attempt to create a discussion based around some of these still very relevant issues. The National Endowment for the Humanities began this series last year in wake of the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's march to Washington.

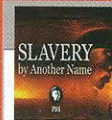
On April 2nd, the series started with a screening of Slavery by Another Name, a powerful documentary showing slavery life extending past the Emancipation Proclamation.

Freedom Riders, a documentary about the courageous individuals that rode buses all across the country to insist that segregation be abolished, will be screened on April 9 in Goodwyn Hall Room 111. The film, a winner of three Emmys, chronicles the hardships and national importance of the riders, as they were beaten and harassed all throughout their peaceful protest. This will also be coupled with a discussion afterwards with civil rights experts, featuring an introduction by Georgette Norman, director of the Rosa Parks Library and Museum in Montgomery.

On April 16, The Loving Story will wrap up this three-part event, a film that examines interracial marriage in late 1950s America. This event also includes a discussion after the screening. This film will be introduced and the discussion moderated by Pia Knigge, assistant professor of political science here at AUM.

Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle

Film Screenings at Auburn University at Montgomery

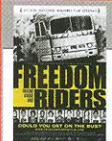


Slavery by Another Name (2012, 90 minutes)

introduced by Ben Severance, Associate Professor of History at Auburn Montgomery

It was a shocking reality that often went unacknowledged, then and now: a huge system of forced, unpaid labor, mostly affecting Southern black men, that lasted until World War II. Based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book by Douglas Blackmon, Slavery by Another Name tells the stories of men, charged with crimes like vagrancy, and often guilty of nothing, who were bought and sold, abused and subjected to sometimes deadly working conditions as unpaid convict labor. Interviews with the descendants of victims and perpetrators resonate with a modern audience.

▶▶ April 2 at 5 p.m.
Goodwyn Hall 111

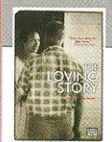


Freedom Riders (2011, 120 minutes)

introduced by Georgette Norman, Director of the Rosa Parks Library and Museum

Attracting a diverse group of volunteers, the Freedom Riders of 1961 took the civil rights struggle out of the courtroom and onto the streets of the Jim Crow South. Freedom Riders tells the terrifying, moving and suspenseful story of a time when white and black volunteers riding a bus into the Deep South risked being jailed, beaten or killed, as white local and state authorities ignored or encouraged violent attacks. The film includes previously unseen amateur 8mm footage of the burning bus on which some Freedom Riders were temporarily trapped, taken by a local 12-year-old and held as evidence since 1961 by the FBI.

▶▶ April 9 at 5 p.m.
Goodwyn Hall 111



The Loving Story (2011, 77 minutes)

introduced by Pia Knigge, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Auburn Montgomery

Mildred and Richard Loving knew it was technically illegal for them to live as a married couple in Virginia because she was of African American and Native American descent and he was white. But they never expected to be woken up in their bedroom and arrested one night in 1958. The documentary brings to life the Lovings' marriage and the legal battle that followed through little-known filmed interviews and photographs shot for Life magazine.

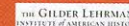
▶▶ April 16 at 5 p.m.
Goodwyn Hall 111

This film series is sponsored by the Department of Communication and Dramatic Arts, the Department of History and World Languages and Cultures, and the Department of Political Sciences and Public Administration.

The audience is invited to stay for discussion of the film after the screening. Refreshments will be served. All three events are free and open to the public.

The Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle Film Screenings are made possible through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, as part of its Bridging Cultures initiative, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

For further information, please contact Dr. Silvia Giagnoni at sgagnoni@aum.edu or 334-244-3358.



“We hold these truths to be self-evident...”

The poster for the Created Equal film series.

Courtesy of Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and National Endowment for the Humanities.

Silvia Giagnoni, Associate Professor in Communication at AUM and organizer of the events, expresses her excitement in bringing these documentaries to the general public. “These films help us deconstruct whiteness and provide a novel look at important milestones in

