

[Undated, probably before 1964. College unidentified, probably one of the Atlanta University Center HBCUs]

## SUMMER HONORS COLLEGE

Proposed Course Offering submitted by Willard Carpenter, Polit. Sci. Dept.

Title: Social Change in the South

Credit: Three hours

- a) as Independent Study in one of the social sciences depending upon the focus of each student's research, or
- b) as a new course listing under Social Science itself, or
- c) as Honors in one of the social sciences.

Significance and Purpose: A major readjustment of values and patterns of action is occurring in the United States in the area of human dignity. The process of change itself is most dramatically visible now in the South. An ideal laboratory situation is thus presented for undergraduate students to engage in research and to evaluate conflict situations in which the dilemmas of ethical choice cannot be avoided.

As many of our students will occupy leadership roles in their own communities in coming years, it is most important that they understand the vital import of the issues involved in the civil rights revolution. At the present time open conflict is not present in most northern communities, but there seems little doubt that in a few years at the most the demand for equality will require us also to make some crucial decisions. A few of our students in critical places in the white community at the right time may make all the difference between an amicable solution and bitter conflict.

Proposed Outline: Preparatory work in the late spring and early summer; a month of research in the field at the end of the summer; papers due shortly after the fall semester begins.

### Schedule:

- Late spring: Several discussions will be held with students selected for the course. Mechanics of the trip will be planned, and group and individual bibliographies prepared. A choice as to definite area of research, if not specific topic, should be made at this time.
- Early summer: Individual reading and planning.
- July 25 (Saturday): Seminar on campus with each student responsible for leading the discussion on his particular aspect of the study.
- August 1: Each student's research design must be mailed to me by this date. In the case of cooperative research projects by two or more students, the division of work must be clearly indicated. Research designs will be either approved or returned for revision.



- August 16 to September 16: Group will headquarters in Atlanta.
  - Students will pursue their own research.
  - Group seminars will be held with discussion leaders representing all interests in the South.
  - It is possible that several civil rights organizations will organize special weekend conferences for us. Prof. Howard Zinn, an advisor to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, has already expressed an interest in aiding us.
  
- October 1: Papers due.

Research Topics: The following have been suggested by students who have expressed an interest in participating in this project if it is made a part of the Summer Honors College.

- Pressure group operations
- Mass movements
- Implementation of the 1960 Civil Rights Bill
- Reaction of the white community (differential reactions from white workers, businessmen, religious leaders, etc.)
- Attitudes expressed by various white groups (toward law and order, brotherhood values, etc.)
- Economic issues as part of the civil rights protest
- Study of the Atlanta districts which elected a Negro state legislator and a liberal white Congressman.
- Reaction and expectations of the Negro community

Additional value to the College: It has been suggested that the better papers may be mimeographed and used as a basis for study in several classes on the campus such as American Government, Minorities, Introductory Sociology, Social Psychology, and Political Parties.

In addition, the students mentioned above have indicated a willingness to discuss their research and reactions with classes, campus clubs, and community organizations.

Living mechanics: Trip will be in private cars. Enrollment will be limited to six students if I am the only adult on the trip; to ten students if my wife accompanies us; to 12 to 14 students if another adult couple participates.

Students will be responsible for their own living expenses. Some have expressed an interest in a cooperative cooking arrangement to cut costs. If possible we will secure housing through religious or alumni contacts, or possibly through Professor Zinn on the Spelman campus.