#Charlestonsyllabus

Here is a list of readings that educators can use to broach conversations in the classroom about the horrendous events that unfolded in Charleston, South Carolina on the evening of June 17, 2015. These readings provide valuable information about the history of racial violence in this country and contextualize the history of race relations in South Carolina and the United States in general. They also offer insights on race, racial identities, global white supremacy and black resistance. All readings are arranged by date of publication. This list is not meant to be exhaustive—you will find omissions. Please check out #Charlestonsyllabus and the Goodreads List for additional reading suggestions.

#Charlestonsyllabus was conceived by Chad Williams (@Dr_ChadWilliams), Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies at Brandeis University. With the help of Kidada Williams (@KidadaEWilliams), the hashtag started trending on Twitter on the evening of June 19, 2015. The following list was compiled and organized by AAIHS blogger Keisha N. Blain (@KeishaBlain) with the assistance of Melissa Morrone (@InfAgit), Ryan P. Randall (@foureyedsoul), and Cecily Walker (@skeskali). Special thanks to everyone who contributed suggestions via Twitter. Please click here to read more about the origin and significance of #Charlestonsyllabus.

“#Charlestonsyllabus is more than a list. It is a community of people committed to critical thinking, truth telling and social transformation.”— Chad Williams
GENERAL HISTORICAL OVERVIEWS


OP-EDS AND EDITORIALS


READINGS ON SOUTH CAROLINA

- Gerda Lerner, *The Grimké Sisters from South Carolina: Pioneers for Women’s Rights and*
Abolition (1971)
- Orville Vernon Burton and Winifred B. Moore, eds. *Toward the Meeting of the Waters: Currents in the Civil Rights Movement of South Carolina during the Twentieth Century* (2008)

*On Charleston, SC*

READINGS ON SLAVERY

*General Overviews


Deborah Gray White, *Ar’n’t I a Woman?: Female Slaves in the Plantation South* (1985)


Daina Ramey Berry, *Swing the Sickle for the Harvest is Ripe: Gender and Slavery in Antebellum Georgia* (2007)


*On Slavery in the U.S. North*


**On Slavery in the Atlantic World**


**Readings on the Civil War & Reconstruction**

- Booker T. Washington, *Up From Slavery* (1901)
- Tony Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* (1998)
- Douglas Blackmon, *Slavery By Another Name* (2008)
- Doug Egerton, *The Wars of Reconstruction: The Brief, Violent History of America’s Most
*Readings on the Confederate Flag*


**READINGS ON POST-RECONSTRUCTION AND JIM CROW**

- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*,
*Readings on Racial Violence*

- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961)

*Readings on White Racial Identity*


*Readings on White Supremacy in the U.S. and Abroad*

*Note: See the AAIHS’s Bibliography on Black Internationalism and RacismReview’s Bibliography on*
White Supremacy

- Reg Austin, *Racism and Apartheid in Southern Africa* (1975)
- Howard Winant, *The World is a Ghetto: Race and Democracy since World War II* (2001)

READINGS ON RACE AND RELIGION

- Carol V. R. George, *Segregated Sabbaths: Richard Allen and the Emergence of Independent Black Churches, 1760-1840* (1973)
- Allan D. Austin, *African Muslims in Antebellum America: Transatlantic Stories and Spiritual*
Struggles (1997)

- Paul Harvey, Redeeming the South: Religious Cultures and Racial Identities Among Southern Baptists, 1865–1925 (1997)
- George C. Rable, God’s Almost Chosen Peoples: A Religious History of the American Civil War (2010)
- James H. Cone, The Cross and the Lynching Tree (2011)

*Readings on African American Women’s Religious History*

Note: See the University of California’s Bibliography on Black Feminism and Womanism

- Cheryl Gilkes, If It Wasn’t for the Women: Black Women’s Experience and Womanist Culture in Church and Community (2001)
READINGS ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS–BLACK POWER ERA

- Adam Fairclough, *To Redeem the Soul of America: the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1987)
- Bruce Nelson, *Divided We Stand: American Workers and the Struggle for Black Equality* (2001)
★ Thomas Jackson, *From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Struggle for Economic Justice* (2007)

**AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE**

★ Charles W. Chestnutt, *The House Behind the Cedars* (1900)
★ Nella Larson, *Quicksand* (1928)
★ Nella Larson, *Passing* (1929)
★ Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
★ Richard Wright, *Black Boy* (1945)
★ Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
★ James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* (1953)
★ Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
★ Toni Cade Bambara, *Gorilla, My Love* (1972)
★ Octavia E. Butler, *Kindred* (1979)
★ Charles Johnson, *Middle Passage* (1990)
★ Walter Mosley, *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1990)
★ Edward P. Jones, *Lost in the City* (1992)
★ Rita Dove, *The Darker Face of the Earth* (1994)
★ Lalita Tademy, *Cane River* (2001)
Lorene Cary, *If Sons, Then Heirs* (2011)
Jina Ortiz and Rochelle Spencer, eds., *All About Skin: Short Fiction by Women of Color* (2014)

*Poetry*
Poetry by Lucille Clifton
Poetry by Gwendolyn Brooks
Poetry by Rita Dove
Poetry by Nikky Finney
Poetry by Vievee Francis
Poetry by Nikki Giovanni
Poetry of Robert Hayden
Poetry by Langston Hughes
Poetry by James Weldon Johnson
Poetry by Claude McKay
Poetry by Claudia Rankine
Poetry by Natasha Tretheway
Poetry by Kevin Young

**SELECTED PRIMARY SOURCES**
David Walker, "Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World" (1829)
Absalom Jones, "A Thanksgiving Sermon" (1808)
Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave* (1831)
Charles Ball, *A Narrative of the Life of Charles Ball* (1837)
Henry Highland Garnet, "An Address To The Slaves Of The United States" (1843)
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* (1845)
Frederick Douglass, "Slaveholding Religion and the Christianity of Christ" (1845)
Jarena Lee, *Religious Experience and Journal of Mrs. Jarena Lee* (1849)
"What to the Slave is the Fourth Of July?" (1852)
Benjamin Morgan Palmer, "Thanksgiving Sermon" (1860)
Ida B. Wells-Barnett, *A Red Record: Alleged Causes of Lynching* (1895)
Mark Smith, ed. *Stono: Documenting and Interpreting a Southern Slave Revolt*
WPA Slave Narratives (1930s)
Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" (1963)
Charles Morgan, "A Time to Speak" (1963)
Anne Moody, *Coming of Age in Mississippi* (1968)

**MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES**

*Films*

★ Douglas Blackmon, *Slavery By Another Name* (2012)
★ Ryan Coogler, *Fruitvale Station* (2013)

*Music*

★ “Oh Freedom” (approx. 1865)
★ Paul Robeson’s Version of “No More Auction Block” (Gustavus D. Pike, 1873)
★ Bessie Smith, “Preachin’ the Blues” (1927)
★ Louis Armstrong, “Black and Blue” (1929)
★ Bessie Smith, “Long Old Road” (1931)
★ Billie Holiday, “Strange Fruit” (1939)
★ Big Maybelle, “Gabbin’ Blues” (1952)
★ Odetta, “Spiritual Trilogy: Oh, Freedom; Come And Go With Us; I’m On My Way” (1956)
★ Theolonius Monk, “Blue Monk” (1958)
★ Nina Simone, “Chilly Winds Don’t Blow” (1959)
★ We Insist! Max Roach’s Freedom Now Suite (1960)
★ John Coltrane, “Alabama” (1963)
★ Sam Cooke, “A Change is Gonna Come” (1964)
★ Nina Simone, “Mississippi Goddam” (1964)
★ Bob Dylan, “Only a Pawn in their Game” (1964)
★ The Impressions, “Keep on Pushing” (1964)
★ Gil Scott-Heron, “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” (1970)
★ The Temptations, “Ball of Confusion” (1970)
★ Marvin Gaye, “Inner City Blues/Makes Me Wanna Holler” (1971)
★ Donny Hathaway, “Someday We’ll All Be Free” (1973)
★ The McIntosh County Shouters, “Wade the Water to My Knees” (1984)
★ The Freedom Singers, “In the Mississippi River” (1997)
★ Sweet Honey in the Rock, “Ella’s Song” (1998)
★ Wynton Marsalis, “From the Plantation to the Penitentiary” (2007)
★ Mavis Staples, “Down In Mississippi” (2007)

★ Websites

★ After Slavery: Race, Labor and Politics in the Post-Emancipation Carolinas
★ Charleston Hospital Workers Movement, 1968–1969
★ The Color Line—on the History of Racism in the U.S.
★ Facing History and Ourselves’ List of Resources on Teaching Reconstruction
★ Hudson River Valley Heritage Digital Collection of Primary Sources
★ RACE: A Public Education Project through the American Anthropological Association
★ Voices from the Days of Slavery (Library of Congress)
★ Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
★ Without Sanctuary: Photographs and Postcards of Lynching in America
★ Zinn Education Project–Teaching a People’s History

★ Course Handouts and Other Teaching Sources

★ Caleb McDaniel’s “The American Civil War Era” Rice University course handouts
★ Selected Historical Newspapers (courtesy of the Library of Congress)
★ Quotes, Videos and Various Sources on AntiBlackness
★ Black History Resources for Children
★ State Sanctioned: Sample Curricula and Lesson Plans on Racial Violence
★ William Buckley debates James Baldwin at Cambridge

★ FOR YOUNG READERS

★ Deborah Wiles, *Freedom Summer* (2001)
★ Patricia McKissack, *Goin’ Someplace Special* (2001)
★ Doreen Rappaport and Shane Evans, *Free At Last!: Stories and Songs of Emancipation* (2004)
★ Linda Barrett Osborne, *Traveling the Freedom Road From Slavery & the Civil War through Reconstruction* (2009)
★ Chris Barton and Don Tate, *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* (2015)

*This list is currently being maintained by Keisha N. Blain. Please send an email if you find errors; broken links etc. We are no longer accepting new suggestions for this list. However, please continue to tweet additional suggestions on Twitter using the #Charlestonsyllabus hashtag. We’ll include many of these new recommendations on our forthcoming website: www.TheCharlestonSyllabus.com.*