

Diversity Week 2021

The Diversity Work Group has been working hard to plan for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Week 2021.

January 18th

Card campaign for healthcare workers & nursing home residents

Film Festival!

This is a self-directed film festival. You may choose to require students to watch a movie and discuss in class or in another way that is meaningful to the topic and your program.

- *BlacKkKlansman* (134 minutes) [Teach with Movies](#) discussion questions
BLACKKKLANSMAN adapted from Ron Stallworth's true story about his undercover investigation into the Ku Klux Klan as a Black detective in the 1970s, was directed by Academy Award® winner – and AFI Honorary Degree recipient – Spike Lee, and produced by Jason Blum and Jordan Peele.
 - There are two radical groups depicted in this story, the KKK and the Black Power movement. What is this movie telling us about them?
 - Whose actions in this film actually benefit African Americans and, actually, all Americans? Is it the KKK, the Black Power people like Kwame Ture, the black student leader Patrice Dumas, or Ron Stallworth? Defend your answer.
 - [Ask for volunteers from the class to give one response to this question. Tell students that reasonable people may disagree and that if they disagree with what one of their classmates has to say or have anything to add, to raise their hand and they'll be given a chance to contribute. Here is the suggested question:] "Farce is a type of comedy which uses exaggeration, buffoonery, and ludicrously improbable situations to evoke laughter or to amuse its audience. Great comedy also contains an element of truth. Name a scene in *BlacKkKlansman* that is farcical but also contains a kernel of truth. Describe the scene the truth that it refers to.." [Teachers: you may have to prod a little by asking more than once, "What is the truth here?"]
- *Dear White People* (106 minutes) [American Film Institute](#) discussion questions
Dear White People is a campus-based satire dissecting contemporary racial politics by following four African-American students studying at a privileged university.
 - How does Justin Simien expand on the Black experience and the notion of identity in *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE*, particularly through the characters of Samantha White and Lionel Higgins? What contradictions exist within those characters?
 - What does the film have to say about the world of predominantly white comedy – in terms of the humor magazine "Pastiche" in the film? What are your feelings on politically incorrect humor and how can it be exploited as a shield for racism/sexism?
 - How can we confront the racism inherent in our culture and bridge the power gap to foster greater understanding and progress as a society?
- *Do the Right Thing* (120 minutes) [American Film Institute](#) discussion questions
On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone's hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence.
 - Is there a moral center to the film – someone who embodies the ideals of civic engagement?

- Pino's racism is apparent but contradicted in part by his admiration of black athletes and musicians. What point is Spike Lee trying to make about this contradiction?
- Spike Lee evokes Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X at the end of the film. How did the two civil rights activists differ in their belief systems, and what message do you think Lee was trying to get across by quoting them both?
- *Harriet* (125 minutes) [Teach with Movies](#) discussion questions
 Harriet Tubman was without doubt one of America's greatest heroes. Her courage, ingenuity, and tenacity enabled her to escape from slavery in 1849. She then became an "abductor" for the Underground Railroad. With a price on her head and facing certain torture and death if she were caught, Harriet Tubman went back into the South 13 times freeing the rest of her family and many other slaves. It is estimated that she shepherded some 70 – 300 slaves to freedom. She was also instrumental in freeing 750 slaves in one military operation during the Civil War.
 - What can we learn from the life of Harriet Tubman?
 - Why did the Underground Railroad operate and maintain hiding places for fugitive slaves in Northern states such as New York?
 - Tell the class, if students do not already know, that there was a lot of resistance to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Mobs of people, white and black, would attempt to rescue fugitive slaves who had been arrested by U.S. Marshalls or seized by slave-catchers empowered to act under the law. (See e.g., See Braddock, pp. 116 – 128 and 143 – 149.). On occasion, people died in these encounters. Juries would not convict people who were clearly guilty of attempting to interfere with the law. People also covertly resisted the law by participating in the Underground Railroad. Compare this to the non-violent direct action of the Indian movement for independence led by Mahatma Gandhi and the U.S. Civil Rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King. Then ask the question, when is violent resistance justified, when is covert resistance justified, and when is non-violent direct action called for. In the discussions bring in applicable current events.
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (93 minutes) [discussion questions](#)
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks is a movie based on Rebecca Skloot's best-selling novel. This film, available on HBO, shows Skloot's research into the fascinating life of Henrietta Lacks and her family. Learn about medical ethics and the history of the HeLa cells that changed the world with this fantastic drama.
 - Race and racism are woven throughout the book, both in the story presented and in the process of the research for the book. Skloot was yet another white person asking the Lacks family about Henrietta. How do you feel about a white woman creating the narrative of this story? How did her race help or hinder Skloot in the writing and researching of the book?
 - What role did the deferential attitude toward doctors in the early 20th century play in the interaction between Henrietta and her family and Johns Hopkins? How has that attitude toward doctors changed over the decades? Do patients' socioeconomic differences affect the relationship today?
 - What is your opinion on the needs of scientific research versus the ethical rights of individuals?
 - What obligations and responsibilities do citizens have towards the perpetuation of their freedom?

- *Just Mercy* (137 minutes) [Teach with Movies](#) discussion questions
Just Mercy is a film that presents a moving narrative of deeply ingrained racism in the American South. Anti-Blackness in the U.S. isn't limited to the communities portrayed in the film, but is widespread throughout our country—with devastating consequences.
 - The fictional Herbert Richardson said, "A girl is dead because of me." The fictional Walter McMillian responds, "That doesn't give someone the right to kill you back." Bryan Stevenson said, "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done" Then again, there is part of many of us that feels that people who commit really heinous acts should be killed by the state as punishment. There are arguments both ways. Do you agree or disagree with capital punishment?
 - Walter McMillian was eventually freed and exonerated. Does this show that the justice system worked in his case?
 - What do you take away from this story?
 - What happens to a society that does not embrace the concept of fairness?
- *Miracle of St. Anna* (166 minutes) [LitLovers](#) discussion questions
- Set in 1944 Italy, it is the story of four members of the US Army's all-black division who get trapped in a Tuscan village during World War II.
 - In a fiery argument with Stamps, Bishop says, "So now the great white father sends you out here to shoot Germans so he can hang you back home for looking at his woman wrong.... The Negro don't have doodleysquat to do with this...this devilment, this war-to-free-the-world shit". In what ways does the war reveal the racism and hypocrisy entrenched in American society? How are the black soldiers treated by their white commanders? How are they treated by the Italians? Is Bishop's cynicism justified?
 - Why does Train become so attached to the young Italian boy he rescues? What does the boy offer him that he's never had before? What does Train learn from him? Is the boy, as Train claims, "an angel"?
 - Train, Stamps, Bishop, and Hector are four distinctive and vividly drawn characters. How are they different from one another? What varying attitudes do they have about the war? What larger themes does McBride address through the conflict between Bishop and Stamps?
- *The Butler* (135 minutes) [American Film Institute](#) discussion questions
 LEE DANIELS' *THE BUTLER* stars Oscar® winner Forest Whitaker and is based on the life of Eugene Allen, a butler who worked in the White House under eight presidential administrations, bearing witness to some of the most influential political figures and tumultuous times in U.S. history.
 - How is LEE DANIELS' *THE BUTLER* a tale of two faces? What does Cecil mean when he speaks about the "two faces" every Black person must wear, one face worn to operate around white people and the one worn around other Black people? Why would a person need to adopt two faces?
 - In what way does this younger generation refuse to be submissive when faced with racial oppression? How do they destigmatize and transform being arrested and put in jail into a badge of honor?
 - Do you think of Cecil as overly subservient throughout the film? What quiet acts of rebellion are portrayed?

January 19th

National Day of Racial Healing

Launched on Jan. 17, 2017, the National Day of Racial Healing is an opportunity to bring ALL people together in their common humanity and inspire collective action to create a more just and equitable world.

National Conversation @ 2pm (link coming soon)

Local Conversation @ 4pm [Zoom Link](#) to join

January 20th

The Newest Americans Exhibit Kick-off

Come hear Sam Comen and Michael Estrin speak on the photos taken and interviews conducted in the moments immediately prior to and following two naturalization ceremonies in Los Angeles in February and March of 2017. 11:30-12:20. [Zoom link](#) to join

- see below for resources that you may choose to use within your classes

Pledge activity – 4 principles with students signing pledge at speaker.

“The Newest Americans” Exhibit

[The Newest Americans](#) Exhibit ([dropbox](#) with resources) will “run” through the end of February. Photography by Sam Comen, with reporting and writing by Michael Estrin.

Resources to be used with the Exhibit [Sam Comen Photography](#)

Podcast

[Didn't We Solve This One?](#) January 6, 2017

We've fought two wars since 9/11. We got help from tens of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans – some were targeted or killed because they helped us. We owe these people. We've passed laws that say so. So why has it been so hard for us to get many of them to safety?

Song

[Deportee](#) (Plane Crash at Los Gatos) by Woody Guthrie

Article/PDFs

[How U.S. immigration laws and rules have changed through history](#), by D'Vera Cohn

[10 Steps to Naturalization](#)

Websites

[DACA Resource Center](#)

[Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#)

[National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights](#)

[US Citizenship and Immigration Services](#)

[Immigration](#) page on govtrack.us

Books

Many Voices, One Nation: Material Culture Reflections on Race and Migration in the United States, ed. by Margaret Salazar-Porzio, Joan Troyano, Lauren Safranek

The Immigrant Spirit: How Immigrants Help Build America From The Ground Up, by Lurine M. Allotey

The Journey, by Francesca Sanna

Inside Out and Back Again, by Thanhha Lai

Seedfolks, by Paul Fleischman

January 21st

Café con Leche: New Year, New Me 3:30-4 Meet new employees to the college and learn how their work impacts the students of Southwest Tech. [Zoom link](#) to join

- Invite people to sign the *Respect Pledge* and make the connection
- Invite New Employees: Giulio (Multicultural Success Coach, East Coast, Hispanic), Demi (HR & Canadian, from UWP), Makenzie Marovetz (Budgeting, transition from student to staff), Holly Straka (Marketing, husband is in Public Safety) (onboarded together)
- Breakout Room Questions (10 minutes): It's a new year, what are you looking forward to? It's a new you, what are you going to work on for yourself?
- Whole group: In one word or phrase, how would you describe what you are looking forward to or what you are going to work on for yourself?

Throughout the Week

During the month of January, we would love to highlighting program, club, and department service projects done throughout the year. We have created a smartsheet page, [#SWTCCares Service Project Highlights](#), for each area to share project info and upload photos. Please share with us the good work that you, your departments, and your students are doing. We look forward to highlighting all the great ways Southwest Tech students and employees impact their local communities!