Lecture Series Objectives

The aim of the lecture series is to examine some key songs and singer/song-writers associated with the Abolition and Civil Rights movements in North America. Among the musicians to be discussed are Paul Robeson, Billie Holiday, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Nina Simone and Buffy Sainte-Marie. Our focus will be on how the biographies of such key personalities interact with historical context to produce protest songs affiliated with the social movements alluded to above.

Week I – INTRODUCTION

Professor and Student Introductions
Protest Song Quiz
Discussion of Lecture Series Outline
Conceptual Sketch
Sources Used
Student Participation
What is a Protest Song?
“The Cutty Wren” - The Oldest Known Protest Song?
Types of Protest Songs

Week II – SONGS OF SLAVERY AND ABOLITION - PART I

The African American Spiritual
   Origins: Bush Meetings and Shouts
   A Unique Musical Genre?
   Why did it Flourish?
Prohibition of Literacy
Homogeneity of Slaves in U.S.
Work Process in Plantations
The Nature of Churches during Slavery

The Spiritual versus Gospel

Slavery and Abolitionist Timeline

Michael Row the Boat Ashore

Follow the Drinking Gourd

**Week III – SONGS OF SLAVERY AND ABOLITION - PART II**

The Story of Harriet Ross Tubman
   Wade in the Water

Go Down Moses

Swing Low Sweet Chariot

I'm on my Way to Canaan's Land

Oh Freedom

The Hutchinson Family Singers

Canada, the Underground Railroad and the Elgin Settlement

**Week IV – SONGS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT – PART I**

The Reconstruction Period

Jim Crow

U.S. Civil Rights Timeline

Old Man River – Paul Robeson

Robeson and Harry Belafonte

Strange Fruit – Abel Meeropol and Billie Holiday

History of the Ku Klux Klan
The Klan – David Arkin

Keep Your Eyes on the Prize – Alice Wine

Oh Freedom

**Week V – SONGS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT – PART II**

The Story of We Shall Overcome
  - Charles Tindley
  - Louise Shropshire
  - The Highlander Folk School
  - Zilphia Horton
  - Guy Carawan
  - Pete Seeger
  - Joan Baez

We Shall not be Moved

The Death of Emmett Till – Bob Dylan

Mississippi Goddam – Nina Simone

Marching 'Round Selma

Aboriginal Rights
  - Now that the Buffalo's Gone – Buffy Sainte-Marie
  - My Country 'Tis of Thy People You're Dying – Buffy Sainte-Marie

**Week VI – TIGHTENING SOME LOOSE ENDS**

The Conceptual Sketch Revisited
  - Social Context - Historical Events
  - Social Context - Culture/Resource Distribution Contradictions
  - Biography - Insiders and Cultural Brokers

Civil Rights Protests Songs of Today
  - Rap as Contemporary Civil Rights Protest Genre
  - Song for Assata

What Makes For An Effective Civil Rights Song?

Can Protest Songs Lead to Social Change?