

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Teach-in Sessions

Monday, January 17, 2022

(Please click on link to register)

9:00 am Sessions:

[The American Story: Lessons from James Baldwin and Ralph Ellison](#)

9:00 a.m. Session A

Presenter: Dr. Megan Paustian, Associate Professor of English

Is the American story defined by freedom, equality, and democracy or by racist exclusion and terror?

Turning to the work of Black authors such as Ralph Ellison and James Baldwin can help us reckon with the tension between these conflicting narratives. They expose the anxious psychology of whiteness and demonstrate how African Americans, excluded from the promises of democracy, have been the country's most profound philosophers of freedom.

[Being Black American at a Predominately White Institution](#)

9:00 a.m. Session B

Presenter: Mikel L. Mays, Undergraduate Student

The presenter will share his experience growing up as a Black man in the suburbs. He will describe his experiences striving to create a better life and learning at a predominately White institution. He will introduce a call of action on how to support change and increase awareness of issues happening on colleges campuses and in other communities. Lastly, he will give you tactics on how to support minority students in academic organizations.

[The Controversial King](#)

9:00 a.m. Session C

Presenter: Dr. Sean Kim Butorac, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated as one of the great advocates for nonviolent resistance and is valorized as a model for progressive social movements today. Yet few recall that King was a fierce agitator and a critic of political moderates. Even fewer know or recall that King was a vocal critic of capitalism, a global system that he argued, "has outlived its usefulness." King would also link this critique to an anti-imperialist project, issuing a sweeping condemnation of the Vietnam War. For King, capitalism and imperialism are fundamentally entangled with the development and persistence of white supremacy. Black liberation requires that we confront "the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism." This panel explores King's lesser-explored, often controversial critiques of moderates, capitalism, and imperialism to reflect on the question of what it would mean to "move forward." For King, what would 'moving forward' require of us as individuals and society? What fundamental transformations would our economic and political institutions undergo?

10:00 am Sessions

[Justice for All People: Disability Rights on Our Campus](#)

10:00 a.m. Session A

Presenter: Marie Zaknoun, Undergraduate Student; Dr. Nicole Rivera, Associate Professor of Psychology

Dr. King provided a guide for disability activism through his work and words: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This session will explore disabilities represented on our campus, legal protections, and strategies for reducing ableism. Results from a 2020 focus group will be shared to represent student voices. Participants will learn about the appropriate language surrounding disability and how to best support people with disabilities.

[The Relationship between Religion and the Civil Rights Movement](#)

10:00 a.m. Session B

Presenter: Dr. Vincent Gaddis, Professor of History and Political Science, Elgin Community College
Martin Luther King noted that "11 am Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America." This session unpacks this statement and explores the role of religion in the civil rights movement, and the contemporary divisions within Christianity writ large on issues of social justice.

[So, You want to be a more Inclusive Instructor?: Tips, tools, and Strategies to up your Game in the Classroom](#)

10:00 a.m. Session C

Presenter: Dr. Jennifer K. Shah, Assistant Professor of Education

This workshop session is for instructors at North Central only and will dig further into the themes regarding "instructor's role in the system" from the Campus Climate Survey results. Additionally, we will share ways that instructors on our campus can be more inclusive towards all students. Practical strategies, tips, and resources will be shared in this session with the hopes that all participants walk away with a "to-do" list of ideas to implement in the new semester. There will be time during this session for discussion and also sharing of ideas.

11:00 am Sessions

[Staring at the Sea: An Existential Exploration of Inequality](#)

11:00 a.m. Session A

Presenter: Dr. Stephen Maynard Caliendo, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

This session encourages audience members to reflect on the deep connections between our shared humanity and our responsibility to reduce and ultimately eradicate inequality, particularly in the United States. Centering on the importance of persons who hold privilege to both listen more closely and raise their voices when appropriate, the 2022 MLK Week theme is addressed through discussion of the role of allies in the struggle for increased inclusion, belonging, and equity.

[Examining and Expanding Our Understandings of Racism](#)

11:00 a.m. Session B

Presenter: Serene Labadi, Graduate Student and Multicultural Peer Educator

In order to keep moving forward, we have to carefully examine what we've been taught thus far about what racism is and how it impacts us. Rather than looking at racism as a thing of the past, or strictly a mindset that is held, we must look at it as something that plays an active and debilitating role in the systems we engage in at a community, national and global level. We must identify not only explicit racism but implicit racism within us and in our world that we may unintentionally enable. To do this, we must all find the space we feel most comfortable and impactful. We don't all have to be front-liner activists and organizers, but we do have to show up in some way. Learning how and where we can show up is key in ensuring that we do.

[I Decided to Stick with Love...Hate is Too Great of a Burden to Bear](#)

11:00 a.m. Session C

Presenter: Professor Danielle Langford, Instructor of Management

This session will hope to broaden the perspective of the current conundrum we find ourselves in due to the recent, pervasive yet historical racial pandemic. This session's purpose is to offer a dynamic that was held by this prophetic leader; the late, great Martin Luther King Jr. What would Dr. King say about Black Lives Matter? Why does it matter? Who matters? It begins with us, as individuals.

