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2023 SUMMER SEMINAR

AUM CIVIL RIGHTS & CIVIC VIRTUE SOCIETY





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HOPE, WISDOM, JUSTICE, AND
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
WELL

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A COMMUNITY PANEL

Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides



Summer seminar participants spent the morning sessions building community, establishing norms and commitments for conversation about difficult topics, and learning about the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Freedom Rides. Following these sessions, faculty, staff, and students visited the Rosa Parks Museum and the Freedom Rides Museum.

MONDAY

TUESDAY



Selma and the struggle for voting rights

The focus of our second day was the voting rights struggle in Selma, Alabama. In the morning, participants engaged in conversations about the protests leading up to the Selma to Montgomery March. They also had the opportunity to hear an address by Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries (The Ohio State University) titled, "Fighting for Freedom Rights in Lowndes County, Alabama, 1965-1966." In the afternoon, we visited the National Voting Rights Museum & Institute and walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



WEDNESDAY



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Confrontation, the Legacy Museum, and the virtue of Hope

During our third day, we focused on the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. Participants discussed Project Confrontation, the children's crusade, and the events leading to the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church. We concluded the morning sessions with a talk by Dr. Nancy Snow (University of Kansas) titled, "Hope as a Democratic Civic Virtue."

In our afternoon session, participants visited The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration. We also visited the National Memorial for Peace & Justice, a site dedicated to remembering victims of racial terror and lynching. Participants confronted the difficult history of our nation and sought to honor the memory of those who fought for freedom.



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Hope, wisdom, justice, and serving our community well.



Our day began with conversation about our experiences at the Legacy Museum. Participants reflected on the difficulties of confronting this history and the importance of hope as a virtue that enables a person to move forward in the face of disappointment. We concluded this session with a reflection on selections from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermon "Unfulfilled Hopes."

Following these conversations, we had the opportunity to hear a talk by Dr. Bradley Burroughs (Wake Forest University) titled "The Ways of Wisdom in the Quest for Justice" and an address by our Civil Rights & Civic Virtue Scholar, Dr. Sabrina Little, titled "Empathy as a Propaedeutic to Justice." We concluded our discussions on this day with group reflection about what it means to serve well within a community in preparation for a community panel.

THURSDAY

A community panel



FRIDAY

We hosted a panel of community partners for a conversation about serving Montgomery. Our panelists discussed the ways their identity formed their work within the city. And they sought to describe their views on what it means to serve well within a community.