



# The Detroit Rebellion at 50: Retrospect and Prospect

Wayne State University  
Department of Urban Studies and Planning  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Spring/Summer 2022

Urban Planning 5650 (cr. 3)  
Remote Asynchronous

Instructor: Jeff Horner  
3219 Fac. Admin. Bldg.  
(313) 577-0194  
jeffhorner@wayne.edu  
(Canvas email best)

## Overview

This course will provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the causes and event-by-event specifics of the civil rebellion in Detroit in July 1967. Structured as a series of guest lectures, films and a field trip to the Detroit Historical Museum, the course will examine historical antecedents, momentous accounts of that weekend, and retrospective visions offered by guest lecturers, extant scholarship, and findings of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, issued in 1968.

## Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- Accurately converse about the full set of causes leading up to the 1967 uprising;
- Integrate numerous social and economic conditions present at the time to develop a richer portrait of the conditions faced by Virginia Park and at-large city residents;
- Reconcile social and economic conditions and the role of public policy and policymakers in Detroit;

- Discuss differences between actual eyewitness accounts and media narratives;
- Describe the response and recommendations of the National Commission of Civil Disorders, convened in response to the Detroit Rebellion;
- Conduct archival research in the Walter P. Reuther Library.

### **Course Materials for Purchase**

The following required course texts are available from the Barnes and Noble University Bookstore and online:

**Horner, Jeffrey T. (ed.). The Straight Detroit: America's Premier Legacy City (First. ed.), Cognella Academic Publishers, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-5165-1270-6. To purchase, please follow this link: <https://store.cognella.com/81877-1b-ni-015>. If you experience any difficulties, please email [orders@cognella.com](mailto:orders@cognella.com) or call 800.200.3908 ext. 503. **\*\*Important: your instructor does not make any royalties or is otherwise compensated for sales of this text to WSU students\*\*****

**Stone, Joel (ed.). Detroit 1967, Wayne State University Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-0-8143-4303-6**

Additional suggested materials, **not required for purchase**:

**The Detroit Journalism Collective (ed.). The Intersection: What Detroit Has Gained, and Lost, 50 Years after the Uprising of 1967. 2016. ISBN 978-1-9439-9526-4**

Your instructor may post additional course materials as they are assigned. These additional course text assigned readings will be distributed at least five days in advance on Canvas. Be sure to check often for class announcements.

### **Organization**

As a graduate-level lecture series, this course follows a reading and lecture format. Taped guest lecturers will present material on the weekly topic, which may not necessarily cover the exact content as the assigned reading for that week. Be advised that examination questions will cover both guest lecturer presentations and assigned readings.

Students unfamiliar with the course Canvas system should familiarize themselves with it as soon as possible. All course materials will be made available there, so be sure to contact me if you need assistance with Canvas.

Video lectures for remote viewing will be posted on Canvas, under the Echo360 Recordings tab on the left side of the Canvas course page. Similarly, exams will be administered online, allowing students at least five days to work on exams on their own schedules.

Please note that there is one in-person assignment that students must complete: Students must visit the Detroit Historical Museum and tour the "Detroit '67 Exhibition," which they are free to do on their own time (preferably late in the semester—questions about the exhibit will be on the final exam). The admission charge to the museum is \$8 for students, so be sure to bring your WSU ID, or pay the full admission charge of \$10. At this writing, their hours are Thursday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 pm, and Sundays from 1 to 5 pm.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Regular course participation and completion of reading assignments the week they are assigned is expected. Students are responsible for all course notes and materials distributed throughout the semester on the course Canvas system.

**Undergraduate and Guest Student Assessment** – Final course grade is based on three equally weighted periodic examinations. Examinations will be in essay format, and are to be completed by students on their own time. Exam questions are drawn from assigned readings, guest lectures, and film presentations. Students are allotted 5 days to complete and submit exams to the course Unicheck system found in Canvas. Final course grade exam weighting for undergraduate students:

Exam I	33.3%
Exam II	33.3%
Exam III	<u>33.3%</u>
	100.0%

**Graduate Student and Honors Student/Honors Option Assessment** - Graduate students and undergraduate Honors students are responsible for the same periodic examinations described above, but will have an additional course responsibility of a 2,500-3,000 word paper on a choice of course-related topics provided by the instructor. Further instruction on the paper will be distributed later in the semester. Final grade exam and paper weighting for Graduate students and Honors students:

Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Exam III	25%
Final Paper	<u>25%</u>
	100%

### **University Student Disability Services**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-577-3365 (TDD only). Once you have your accommodations in place, your instructor will be glad to meet with you privately to discuss your special needs. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University.

Please be aware that a delay in getting SDS accommodation letters for the current semester may hinder the availability or facilitation of those accommodations in a timely manner. Therefore, it is in your best interest to get your accommodation letters as early in the semester as possible.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are hereby reminded of the University policies on plagiarism and academic honesty, as found in University rules and regulations. Students unfamiliar with these policies and all related precepts are urged to carefully review these policies, as they are adopted in their entirety for this course. Students can review these policies at: <https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct/academic-misconduct>

## Class Schedule

Wk1/May9

### **Introduction to The Detroit Rebellion at 50: Retrospect and Prospect**

Opening Remarks: **Dr. Sandra Yee**, Dean of University Libraries  
**Dr. Ahmad Ezzedine**, Associate Vice President of Educational Outreach and International Programs  
**Dr. Kameshwari Pothukuchi**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Guest Lecturer: **Joel Stone**, Senior Curator, Detroit Historical Museum

Reading Assignment: **Stone**, Foreword and Introduction

Wk2/May16

### **Early Detroit History**

Guest Lecturer: **Bill McGraw**, former Detroit Free Press Reporter and co-author, The Detroit Almanac

Reading Assignment: **Stone**, Part I, pp. 11-32

Wk3/May23

### **Early African-American History and Race Relations in Detroit**

Guest Lecturer: **Dr. DeWitt Dykes**, Professor of History, Oakland University

Reading Assignment: **Stone**, Part I, pp. 33-62

Wk4/May30

### **Background to the Rebellion**

Guest Lecturer: **Dr. Isaiah McKinnon**, Associate Professor of Education University of Detroit Mercy, former Deputy Mayor and Chief of Police of the City of Detroit

Reading Assignments: **Horner**, Sect. III, Chapt. 3;  
**Stone**, Part II, pp. 63-116  
**Horner**, De Jure Social Control of Blacks in pre-1967 Detroit, 18 J.L Soc'y 169 (2018). **Posted in course modules**

**Exam I distributed June 1, due June 6<sup>th</sup> by midnight (all students)**

Wk5/Jun6

## **Reuther Library Exhibition and Archive**

Exhibition and Archive Presentation:

**Meghan Courtney**, AFSCME Archivist, Reuther Library, Wayne State University

Reading Assignment: **None**

Wk6/Jun13

## **Civil Rights and Insurrections**

Guest Lecturer: **Bill Goodman**, former legal director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and partner, Goodman and Hurvitz Law

Reading Assignment: **Horner**, Sect. III, chaps. 1 and 3

Wk7/Jun20

## **News and Media Accounts**

Guest Lecturer: **Tim Kiska**, Associate Professor of Communication, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Reading Assignment: **Stone**, Part III, pp. 184-209

Aural Assignment: Recording of Detroit 1967: WKNR (Link posted in Canvas)

Wk8/Jun27

## **Housing Policy and Segregation Before and After 1967**

Guest Lecturer: **James H. Carr**, Coleman A. Young Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

Reading Assignment: **Horner**, Sect IV, Chaps. 1 and 3

**Exam II Distributed June 22nd, due June 27<sup>th</sup> by midnight (all students)**

Wk9/Jul4

## **Gordon Park Site Visit**

Host and Tour Guide: **Lamont Causey**, President, Brothers Always Together

Reading Assignments: **Stone**, Part III, pp. 117-183  
**Horner**, "Police killings of 3 black men left a mark on Detroit's history more than 50 years ago"  
<https://theconversation.com/police-killings-of-3-black-men-left-a-mark-on-detroits-history-more-than-50-years-ago-101716>

Wk10/Jul 11 **Panel Presentation – WSU Law School Symposium**

“Detroit Today: The Reproduction of Systems of Control” (Dec. 2017)

Presenters: **Amanda Alexander**, University of Michigan  
**Bernadette Atuahene**, WSU Law School  
**Monica Lewis-Patrick**, We the People of Detroit  
Moderator: **Eric Williams**

Reading Assignments: **Stone**, Part V, pp. 271-296  
**Alden Morris**, “From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter.” Scientific American, Feb. 3, 2021. Link: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/from-civil-rights-to-black-lives-matter1/>

Wk11/Jul18 **Other Views**

Guest Lecturer: **Bill Johnson**, CEO Bill Johnson Group, former Editorial Page Writer, Detroit News

Reading assignment: **None**

Wk12/Jul25 **Aftermath and Moving Forward**

Lecturer: **Jeff Horner**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Wayne State University

Reading Assignment: **Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders** (Canvas)

Online Reading Assignment: **Horner**, Section IV, Chapt. 2  
<https://theconversation.com/why-detroit-exploded-in-the-summer-of-1967-81065>

Late Semester Assignment **Detroit '67 Exhibit at Detroit Historical Museum**

On Own Time Assignment: **Tour the “Detroit 67: Perspectives” exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum** (see hours and admission costs in course organization)

**Exam III Distributed July 27th, due August 2<sup>nd</sup> by midnight (all students)**

**Final Papers due July 27<sup>th</sup> by midnight (Graduate students only)**