A (Race and) Mississippi Reading List

Curated by Dr. B. Brian Foster

Gulf Coast (Coastal Mississippi, Including Biloxi and Hattiesburg)

- Hattiesburg: An American City in Black and White by William Sturkey
- Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward
- Fiction: Sing, Unburied Sing by Jesmyn Ward
- Fiction: Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward

Delta (Northwest Mississippi, Including Clarksdale and Greenville)

- Aaron Henry: The Fire Ever Burning by Aaron Henry
- Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton: Lives of Mississippi Delta Chinese Grocers by John Jung
- Crossroads at Clarksdale: The Black Freedom Struggle in the Mississippi Delta after World War II by Françoise Hamlin
- Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta by Clyde Woods
- Deep Blues: A Musical and Cultural History of the Mississippi Delta by Robert Palmer
- Deep South: A Social Anthropological Study of Caste and Class by Allison Davis, Burleigh Gardner, and Mary Gardner
- Delta Jewels: In search of My Grandmother’s Wisdom by Alysia Burton Steele
- Down on Parchman Farm: The Great Prison in the Mississippi Delta by William Taylor
- Freedom’s Teacher: The Life of Septima Clark by Katherine Charron
- I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life by Brian Foster
- Marks, Martin and the Mule Train: Marks, Mississippi - Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Origin of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign Mule Train by Hilliard Lackey
- The Land Where the Blues Began by Alan Lomax
- The Most Southern Place on Earth by James Cobb (MS Delta)
- You Can’t Eat Freedom: Southerners and Social Justice after the Civil Rights Movement by Greta De Jong
- Documentary: Lalee’s Kin (HBO, YouTube)
- We Ain’t What We Was: Civil Rights in the New South by Frederick Wirth

“Hill Country” (North/Northeast Mississippi, Including Oxford)

- An American Insurrection: James Meredith and the Battle of Oxford, MS by William Doyle
- The Band Played Dixie: Race and the Liberal Conscience at Ole Miss by Cohodas Nadine
- Docu-Series: Last Chance U (Netflix)

“Piney Woods” (Central/South Mississippi, Including Jackson)

- A Little Taste of Freedom: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County, Mississippi by Emilye Crosby
- Black Boy by Richard Wright
- Coming of Age in Mississippi by Anne Moody
- Heavy by Kiese Laymon
- Jackson Rising: The Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, MS by Kali Akuno and Ajamu Nangwaya
- Right to Revolt: The Crusade for Racial Justice in Mississippi’s Central Piney Woods by Patricia Michelle-Boyett
- Fiction: The Help by Kathryn Stockett
- Podcast: In the Dark, Season 2 (The Story of Curtis Flowers)

Whole State

- Devil’s Sanctuary: An Eyewitness History of Mississippi Hate Crimes by Alex Alston and James Dickerson
- In Search of Another Country: Mississippi and the Conservative Counterrevolution by Joseph Crespino
- Radical Equations: Civil Rights from Mississippi to the Algebra Project by Robert Moses and Charles Cobb
- We Will Shoot Back: Armed Resistance in the Mississippi Freedom Movement by Akinyele Omowale Umoya
- Documentary: Freedom Summer (Amazon Prime)