Unit 9 Glossary (Civil Rights)

**Affirmative Action**- In the U.S., affirmative action came to prominence in the 1960s as a way to promote equal opportunity across the various groups within society. It was developed as a way to enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which sought to eliminate discrimination. It is a policy in which an individual's color, race, sex, religion or national origin are taken into account by a business or the government in order to increase the opportunities provided to an underrepresented part of society. Affirmative action is designed to increase the number of people from certain groups within businesses, institutions and other areas of society in which they have historically had low representation. Today, affirmative action has both strong supporters and staunch critics. It is often considered a means of countering historical discrimination against a particular group.

**Black Panthers**- Founded in Oakland, California by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale on October 15, 1966, the organization initially called for protection of black neighborhoods from police brutality. It then became a black revolutionary and socialist organization active in the United States from 1966 until 1982. The Party’s early Black Nationalist reputation attracted a diverse membership. The Black Panther Party achieved national and international notoriety through its involvement in the Black Power movement and U.S. politics of the 1960s and 1970s.

**Black Power**- A political slogan and movement in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s that emphasized racial pride and the creation of black political and cultural institutions to promote and nurture black collective interests and advance black values. "Black Power" expresses a range of political goals, from defense against racial oppression, to the establishment of social institutions and a self-sufficient economy.

***Brown v. Board of Education***- (1954) Referencing the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause, the Supreme Court, in 1954, outlawed racial segregation in public schools in this landmark case. It reversed the 1896 decision, Plessy v. Ferguson, which held that states could segregate public facilities as long as all facilities were equal. In winning Brown v. Board of Education (Topeka, Kansas), Thurgood Marshall and other NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) lawyers proved that separate schools were not equal and never would be because the segregation implied inequality.

**Cesar Chavez**- (1927-1993) An American farm worker, labor leader, and civil rights activist. He and Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, later the United Farm Workers union (UFW). Chavez was one of the best known Latino American civil rights activists in the 1970’s. He used aggressive but nonviolent tactics for the farm workers’ struggle and gained nationwide support. The UFW grew to be the bargaining agent for 50,000 field workers in California and Florida and led to numerous improvements for union laborers. His slogan “Si, se puede” (Spanish for “Yes, one can”) was widely popular and a slogan still used today amongst the Hispanic community. His birthday, March 31st is a state holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas.

**Civil Rights Act of 1964**- The Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, made racial, religious, and sex discrimination by employers illegal. It also gave the federal government the power to enforce all laws governing civil rights, including the desegregation of schools and public places.

**Civil Rights Act of 1968**- Expanded upon prior civil rights acts, especially the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Act was passed one week after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. One improvement was the provision of federal solutions to aid in stopping discrimination. Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 is also known as the Fair Housing Act. Legislation in the U.S., passed in 1968, that prohibited discrimination in the sale or rental of a private home based on the buyer’s or renter's race, religion, or national origin. The Act was later amended to include gender, ability, and families with children under its protected classes. Critics allege that it provides few enforcement mechanisms and discrimination still occurs.

**Civil Rights Movement**- Civil rights are legal and political rights enjoyed by the inhabitants of a country, especially the rights guaranteed by the 13th and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The struggle for equal rights was never easy. For nearly 100 years, from the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the adoption of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, African Americans and women sought equality before the law and protection of their rights by the Constitution. Some states passed measures which extended equality to blacks and women, but most did not. Beginning in the

1940s, non-violent tactics were adopted in an effort to unify protest. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made racial, religious, and sex discrimination in public places by employers illegal. It also gave the federal government power to enforce all laws governing civil rights. The March on Washington was an early and important step for the black community in gathering national attention to its plight. Black activists, often affiliated with church groups, continued to offer passive resistance to the unjust civil laws. This form of protest is called civil disobedience. The effort of women to secure equal rights was also frustrating. In the early 1970s, the Equal Rights Amendment was accepted by Congress after more than 130 years of effort on the part of women. However, after ten years, two-thirds of the state legislatures had not ratified the measure and it died in 1982.

**De facto Segregation**- Racial segregation that happens “by fact” rather than by legal requirement. For example, often the concentration of African-Americans in certain neighborhoods produces neighborhood schools that are predominantly black or segregated in fact, although not by law.

**De jure Segregation**- Racial segregation that is imposed by law.

***Delgado v Bastrop ISD***- (1948) On June 15, 1948, LULAC filed suit against the Bastrop Independent School District and three other districts. Representing Minerva Delgado and twenty other Mexican-American parents, the suit charged segregation of Mexican children from other white races without specific state law and in violation of the attorney general’s opinion. In addition the suit accused these districts of depriving such children of equal facilities, services, and education instruction. Judge Ben H. Rice of the United States District Court, Western District of Texas, agreed and ordered the cessation of this separation by September 1949. However, the court did allow separate classes on the same campus, in the first grade only, for language-deficient or non-English-speaking students as identified by scientific and standardized tests applied to all.

**Economic Opportunity Act (EOA)**- (1964) The initial step in the war on poverty aspect of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program. The purpose of EOA was to help the poor by enabling them to pull themselves from the grip of poverty and to improve the role of the federal government in the improvement of education. The EOA established over a thousand of Community Action Agencies (CAA's) at the local level to implement Great Society programs. The EOA required the poor have maximum feasible participation in poverty program planning. CAAs sought participation by the poor by opening storefront and neighborhood centers.

***Edgewood ISD v Kirby***- (1989) Petitioners sought a review of an appeal court’s order that reversed a trial court judgment which found that Texas’ school financing system violated the Texas Constitution. This system relied on local property taxes to fund schools. The wealthiest districts had 700 times more property wealth per student than the poorest, with the consequence that the poorest schools lacked sufficient funds to provide necessary services. The Texas Supreme Court affirmed the trial court’s decision that the system violated the state constitution. The system did not address disparities in the ability of different districts to raise revenue, and did not assure every student receives and “efficient”, meaning “productive” or “effective” education. The system was neither financially efficient, nor did it provide for a “general diffusion of knowledge statewide”, but a “limited and unbalanced” diffusion. The resultant inequalities were directly contrary to the constitutional vision of ‘efficiency’. The court did not suggest a specific remedy, and noted that efficiency does not require a per capita distribution. However, the court did set a time limit, until September 1991, for the legislature to develop a new financing system.

***Escobedo v. Illinois***- (1964) A U.S. Supreme Court case holding that criminal suspects have a right to counsel during police interrogations under the Sixth Amendment.

**Freedom Riders**- In 1961, a group of Freedom Riders made up of both blacks and whites, challenged segregation on interstate buses and in terminals. In doing so, they also challenged federal officials to enforce U.S. law. The Freedom Riders boarded buses headed for Louisiana, only to confront violent resistance from white citizens and law enforcement in Alabama. During the conflict, which continued all summer, hundreds of protestors were jailed or injured in attacks by pro-segregation mobs. Eventually the federal government intervened to see that integration was enforced. By the time the Freedom Rides were over, segregation had suffered another blow. The Freedom Rides became a defining part of the civil rights movement, and the Freedom Riders became models of the heroism that transformed race relations.

**Betty Friedan**- (1921–2006) American social reformer and feminist, she was a suburban housewife and sometime writer. She published *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, attacking the then-popular notion that women could find fulfillment only as wives, child bearers, and homemakers. Widely read and extremely influential, the book played an important role in the creation of the modern feminist movement. In 1966 Friedan helped found the National Organization for Women (NOW) and served as its president until 1970. She also helped organize the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws in 1969 and the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971.

**Orval Faubus**- (1910-1994) Orval Eugene Faubus served six consecutive terms as governor of Arkansas, holding the office longer than any other person. He is most widely remembered for his attempt to block the desegregation of Little Rock’s Central High School in 1957. His stand against what he called “forced integration” resulted in President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s sending federal troops to Little Rock (Pulaski County) to enforce the 1954 desegregation ruling of the Supreme Court.

**Hector P. Garcia**- (1914-1996) Founded the G.I. Forum, one of the most active and successful civil rights organizations for Mexican-Americans. Born in Llera, Tamaulipas, Mexico, Garcia moved to south Texas with his family and was educated there. He earned an M.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1940. He served with the U.S. Army Medical Corp during World War II and earned the Bronze Star. He founded the American G.I. Forum in 1948, a political activist organization designed to protect the rights of Mexican-American veterans and their access to financial and medical benefits from the Veterans Administration. The G.I. Forum became one of the major advocacy groups for Hispanics in the United States with 540 affiliate organizations and more than 20,000 members. Garcia was politically active as a member of the Texas State Democratic Committee and the Democratic National Committee. In 1960 he founded the Political Association of Spanish-Speaking Organizations (PASO). He was also involved in LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens). He was awarded the United States of America Medal of Freedom in 1984.

***Gideon v. Wainwright***- (1963) U.S. Supreme Court case that unanimously ruled that state courts are required under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to provide counsel in criminal cases to represent defendants who are unable to afford to pay their own attorneys. The case extended the identical requirement that had been explicitly imposed on federal courts under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments.

***Hernandez v Texas***- (1954) In 1951 in the town of Edna, Texas, a field hand named Pedro Hernandez murdered his employer after exchanging words at a gritty cantina. From this seemingly unremarkable small-town murder emerged a landmark civil rights case that would forever change the lives and legal standing of tens of millions of Americans. A team of unknown Mexican American lawyers took the case, Hernandez v. Texas, all the way to the Supreme Court, where they successfully challenged Jim Crow-style discrimination against Mexican Americans.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**- (1929-1968) A noted leader, Martin Luther King was one of several African-Americans concerned with reforming American society and gaining equal rights by using civil disobedience or non-violent action. He earned his Ph.D. from the School of Theology at Boston University. He was called to minister at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Despite opposition from his father who urged him to return to Atlanta, King moved to Montgomery in 1955, settling in just before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white passenger. King assisted in coordinating the bus boycott which gained national and international attention. He gained visibility as a black leader, and experience in organization and leadership as a result. In 1957 he was instrumental in organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a consortium of churches and civic groups which supported activities to parallel those of the NAACP. The SCLC supported sit-ins, boycotts, and protest marches in Birmingham, Alabama beginning in 1963. In August, during the March on Washington in support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, King set aside his prepared speech and rallied the 250,000 in attendance with “I have a dream today!” He was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Lester Maddox**- (1915–2003) U.S. public official and governor of Georgia from 1967–1971. He achieved national notoriety in 1964 when he drove African Americans from his restaurant in defiance of federal civil-rights legislation and then closed the establishment rather than desegregate it. He was then elected in 1966 as governor of Georgia as an avowed segregationist and with the support of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), he was unable to stem the tide of integration. Although prevented by the state constitution from succeeding himself as governor, he was subsequently elected lieutenant governor in 1971–1975. He lost the 1974 primary election for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

**Thurgood Marshall**- (1908-1993) Thurgood Marshall earned his law degree from Howard Law School in Washington, D.C. and made significant contributions in the quest for legal justice and civil rights in the United States. He argued cases which furthered the rights of African-Americans and then became the first African-American appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. His early career involved assisting his mentor Charles Hamilton Houston, who served as special counsel to the Legal Defense Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The group challenged the validity of segregation and the concept of separate but equal as established by the 1896 Supreme Court decision Plessy v. Ferguson. They argued that the decision violated the 14th Amendment. In 1954 Marshall won his most famous case, Brown v. Board of Education. Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Earl Warren announced the unanimous decision that segregation of public schools was inherently unequal and unconstitutional, and he ordered desegregation. The decision motivated school districts to address the inadequate educational systems for blacks which had resulted from the “separate-but-equal” approach to segregation. President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967 and he served until retirement in 1991.

***Mendez v Westminster***- (1946) The ensuing case of *Mendez v. Westminster School District* would foreshadow *Brown v. Board of Education* in several area, including judicious use of social science research, the application of the Fourteenth Amendment, and the involvement of Thurgood Marshall. Although *Mendez v. Westminster* was relatively unknown nationally, it placed the struggles for civil rights across regional, racial and ethnic lines. The case is important for other reasons. It illuminates how race, class and citizenship marked 20th century Mexican history, and it was one of the growing efforts by Mexican Americans to case off a mantle of systematic prejudice.

***Miranda v. Arizona***- (1966) U.S. Supreme Court case that that both inculpatory and exculpatory statements made in response to interrogation by a defendant in police custody will be admissible at trial only if the prosecution can show the defendant was informed of the right to consult an attorney before and during questioning and if the right against self-incrimination prior to questioning by police, and that the defendant not only understood these rights, but voluntarily waived them. This case had a significant impact on law enforcement in the U.S. and now the “Miranda Rights” are part of a routine police procedure that ensure suspects are informed of their rights.

**Montgomery Bus Boycott**- A mass protest by African American citizens in the city of Montgomery, Alabama, against segregation policies on the city's public buses. On December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. She was arrested and jailed for violated state segregation laws. Her actions had an immediate effect on the African American community and for 11 months there was a massive boycott on the Montgomery bus system. It ended in late 1956 when the U.S. Supreme Court in *Browder v. Gayle* ruled that public bus segregation was unconstitutional.

**Nation of Islam**- (Black Muslims) Founded July 1930 in Detroit, Michigan by Wallace D. Fard Muhammad, this was a new religious movement whose goals were to improve the spiritual, mental, social, and economic condition of African Americans in the United States and all of humanity. Critics accused the group of being black supremacists and it was controversial during the 1960’s and 1970’s. Other leaders included Elijah Muhammad who had recruited Malcom X who became a famous and public face of the Nation of Islam until Elijah kicked him out of the group. Another leader was Louis Farrakhan.

**Rosa Parks**- (1913-2005) A black seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama. On December 1, 1955 she refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus to a white person, as she was legally required to do. She was arrested and jailed for her actions. Her mistreatment after refusing to give up her seat led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott who sought equality of rights of black people. This incident was the first major confrontation in the civil rights movement. (See Montgomery Bus Boycott)

***Plessy v. Ferguson***- (1896) On June 7, 1892, a 30-year-old colored shoemaker named Homer Plessy was jailed for sitting in the “White” car of the East Louisiana Railroad. Plessy was only one-eighths black and seven-eighths white, but under Louisiana law, he was considered black and therefore required to sit in the “Colored” car. Plessy went to court and argued in *Home Adolph Plessy v. The State of Louisiana*, that the Separate Car Act violated the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution. The judge at the trial was John Howard Feguson, a lawyer from Massachusetts who had previously declared the Separate Car Act “unconstitutional on trains that traveled through several states”. In Plessy’s case, however, he decided that the state could choose to regulate railroad companies that operated only within Louisiana. He found Plessy guilty of refusing to leave the white car. Plessy appealed to the Supreme Court of Louisiana, which upheld Ferguson’s decision. In 1896, the Supreme Court of the United States heard Plessy’s case and found him guilty once again.

**Reapportionment**- Reapportionment is the process of redividing the 435 seats of the United States House of Representatives, based upon each state's proportion of the national population. The preceding decennial census is the baseline or determining how many House seats are allotted to each state. The total number of each state's U. S. House seats, combined with its two U.S. Senate seats, constitutes that state's number of electoral votes in presidential elections. Every ten years, the boundaries of legislative districts are redrawn based upon changes in population. This process is usually referred to as "redistricting" or "reapportionment". It affects election districts for the state Senate and the state House of Representatives, as well as election districts for the federal House of Representatives in the United States Congress.

***Regents of the University of California v. Bakke***- In 1978, in a two-part decision, the Supreme Court ruled first that Allan Bakke was a victim of reverse discrimination. Bakke, a white applicant, was twice denied admission into the University of California-Davis (UC-D) medical school even though his test scores were higher than the average of minority students who were admitted in compliance with a UCD special admissions program. But the Supreme Court also upheld the right of a school to adopt an admission program which included race or ethnic background as an element. Thus, the court did not overturn “affirmative action,” preferring to take discrimination questions on a case-by-case basis.

**Segregation/Desegregation**- Segregation is a system that keeps different groups separate from each other, either through physical dividers or using social pressures and laws. Desegregation is the elimination of laws, customs, or practices under which different races, groups, etc., are restricted to specific or separate public facilities, neighborhoods, schools, organizations, or the like.

**Sit-In**- On February 1, 1960, a new tactic was added to the peaceful activists' strategy. Four African American college students walked up to a whites-only lunch counter at the local Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina, and asked for coffee. When service was refused, the students sat patiently. Despite threats and intimidation, the students sat quietly and waited to be served. Sit-in’s were simple, sit quietly and wait to be served. Often the participants would be jeered and threatened by local customers. Sometimes they would be pelted with food or ketchup. Angry onlookers tried to provoke fights that never came. In the event of a physical attack, the student would curl up into a ball on the floor and take the punishment. Any violent reprisal would undermine the spirit of the sit-in. When the local police came to arrest the demonstrators, another line of students would take the vacated seats. Sit-in organizers believed that if the violence were only on the part of the white community, the world would see the righteousness of their cause. Before the end of the school year, over 1500 black demonstrators were arrested. But their sacrifice brought results. Slowly, but surely, restaurants throughout the South began to abandon their policies of segregation.

***Sweatt v Painter***- (1950) In 1946, Heman Marion Sweatt applied for admission to the University of Texas School of Law, which was at the time an all-white institution. Sweatt met all eligibility requirements for admission except for his race. At that time, Article VII, Section 7 of the Texas Constitution read: “Separate schools shall be provided for the white and colored children, and impartial provision shall be made for both.” After the establishment of the black law school, the state court dismissed Sweatt’s case. Sweatt appealed the dismissal of the case to the United States Supreme Court, claiming that Texas admissions scheme continued to violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court ruled that in states where public graduate and professional schools existed for white students but not for black students, black students must be admitted to the all-white institutions, and that the equal protection clause required Sweatt’s admission to the University of Texas School of Law. The case had a direct impact on the University of Texas because it permitted black applicants to apply to graduate and professional programs. However, black students could only pursue those degrees that were not available from segregated black universities such as Prairie View A&M University and Texas State University for Negroes, now known as Texas Southern University.

**Voting Rights Act of 1965**- Prohibits the states and their political subdivisions from imposing voting qualifications or prerequisites to voting, or standards, practices, or procedures that deny or curtail the right of a U.S. citizen to vote because of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

**George Wallace**- (1919-1998) One of America's most outspoken supporters of racial segregation in the 1960s. As governor of Alabama (1963-1967, 1971-1979, and 1983-1987) he fought integration, once even standing symbolically in the doorway of the University of Alabama to block two black students from enrolling there. The National Guard eventually forced him to back down.

He ran as a third party candidate for president in 1968 and in 1972, he ran for president again, but was shot and paralyzed by a would-be assassin during the campaign. He was paralyzed below the waist. In the 1980’s he recanted his earlier racial views and sought reconciliation with black leaders.