

ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM

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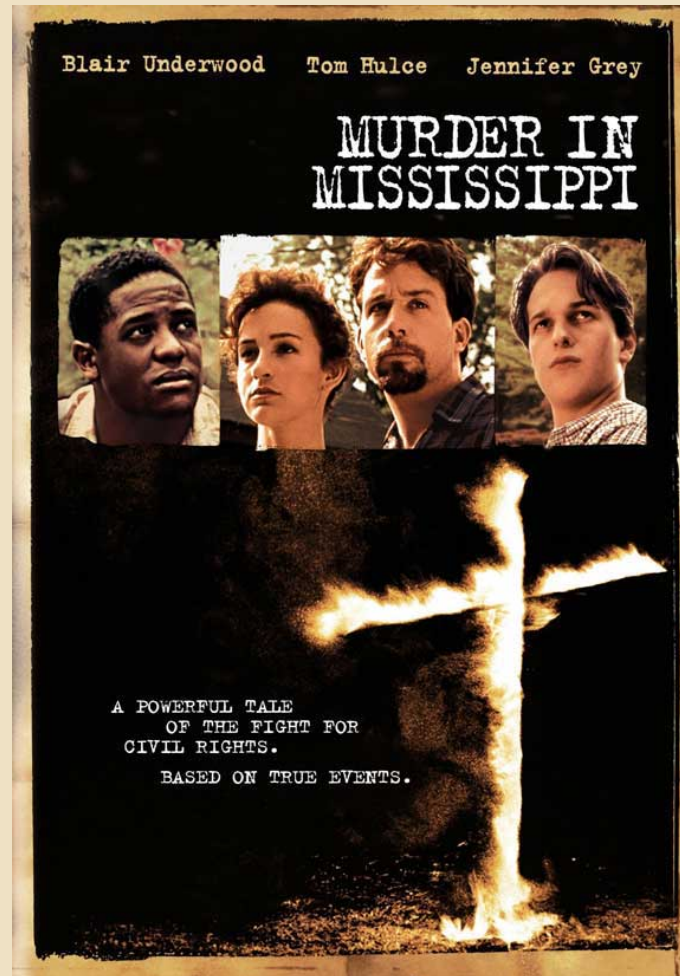
SETTING

- Evening Synagogue Supplemental School
- 50-minute Core Class
- Grades 10-11
- Approx. 15 students per week, but some only occasionally—each class must be self contained

FIRST SEMESTER SYLLABUS

- Community Organizing and Identity
 - Define power, oppression, and privilege
- Jews and Civil Rights
 - The Whys and Why Nots
- Moments of Personal Resistance
- Civil Disobedience
- Freedom Summer
- Civil Rights issues in the Election
- *Murder in Mississippi* clips and discussion
- Prep for interview with Judge Tanzer
- Music of the Civil Rights Movement
- Sandy Hook/Clackamas Town Center Discussion with the Rabbi:
Is Gun Control a Civil Rights Issue?
- Write slam poems and parent presentation

MOVIE: *MURDER IN MISSISSIPPI*



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INTERVIEW WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

- In 1964 Judge Jacob Tanzer went to Mississippi as a member of the US Dept of Justice's Civil Rights Division investigating the deaths of Goodman, Chaney, and Schwerner. He was later appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court.
- Students prepare for his visit by reading selections from:
[*1964, My Story of Life and Death in Mississippi*](#)

STUDENT WORK

Civil rights

Six-pointed star

We fought through nights

Burned to death

Not to let our brothers die in vain

Oppression is our obsession

**And as our ashes spread throughout the
wind**

We made sure that our brothers

Did not die without a voice

Even if we were shot down

Destroyed

Silenced

We would still hold hands

Press peace through our palms into each other

The oppression that shackles our feet to the
ground

And clips our wings

Our veins are black with blood

Our enemies white with hate

And our hearts hold the ashes

Of our brothers who are gone

But not forgotten

As fear threatens to eclipse our hope

We march on

As oppression stomps its overbearing feet on
our liberty

We march on

As we stand united against the hate

We march on

STUDENT WORK

Racism, racing to the door of an Alabama church;
Hear the song fill the chambers of my heart;
Feel the chains on my soul being broken by the strength
of our many voices in unison singing “Hallelujah, We
shall overcome!”
Let the prison doors close on the slanderous ideas of
the past
Let the sun rise on the glimmering ideas of the future we
will build together.

SECOND SEMESTER

- The second semester of **Advocacy and Activism** looked at examples of how the American Jewish community advocated for our own Jewish people. We studied the history of anti-Semitism and then looked at how the American Jewish community advocated for the plight of Soviet Jews.
- We also began to look at the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We analyzed anti-Israel demonstrations on college campuses and discussed the differences between anti-Israel sentiments and anti-Semitism.
- Finally, we discussed the changes in the form of demonstrations and lobbying and looked at AIPAC and JStreet.

QUESTIONS AND IDEAS?