The history of the United States has been shaped by many movements, but perhaps one of the most significant is the Civil Rights Movement. Central to that movement—today and in the past—has always been the city of Montgomery. It was here that Martin Luther King Jr. led thousands of nonviolent marchers from Selma to the steps of the capitol in Montgomery on March 25, 1965 resulting in the passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year. It was here, on April 26, 2018, that Harvard alumnus Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, opened the extraordinarily powerful National Memorial for Peace and Justice. Montgomery is home to the Rosa Parks Museum, the Dexter Street Parsonage, and the head office of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Join Harvard study leader Timothy Patrick McCarthy, an award-winning scholar, teacher, and activist, as you spend four days reflecting on the city’s history, sampling southern cuisine, and remembering a powerful musical legacy.

For those interested in social justice today, there are great lessons to be learned from these struggles in our history, where a profound demonstration of commitment, against all odds, succeeded. In the words of Dr. King: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

GROUP SIZE: 15-30 guests

PRICING: $1,995 per person, double occupancy / $610 single supplement

STUDY LEADER: Timothy Patrick McCarthy AB ’93 is an award-winning scholar, educator, and public servant. He holds a joint faculty appointment in Harvard’s undergraduate honors program in History and Literature, the Graduate School of Education, and the John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he is Core Faculty and Program Director at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. His courses—“American Protest Literature,” “Stories of Slavery and Freedom,” and “Arts of Communication”—are consistently among the most highly rated at Harvard. A historian of politics and social movements, protest literature, and media culture, Tim is the author or editor of five books with the New Press, including The Radical Reader: A Documentary History of the American Radical Tradition (2003), Prophets of Protest: Reconsidering the History of American Abolitionism (2006), and Stonewall’s Children: Living History in the Age of Liberation, Loss, and Love (2017). He has also served as an advisor on numerous political campaigns, including the Presidential campaigns of Barack Obama (2008) and Hillary Clinton (2016). He graduated with honors in History and Literature from Harvard College and earned his MA, MPhil, and PhD in History from Columbia University. Tim and his husband, CJ Crowder, live in Quincy House, where they have been Resident Scholars since 2010.
SCHEDULE BY DAY
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8
MONTGOMERY

Arrive in Montgomery and begin the afternoon with a 2:00pm visit to the Dexter Parsonage Museum where Martin Luther King Jr. lived while a pastor at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. The house was bombed on January 30, 1956 and it was that day that Dr. King made the personal commitment to non-violence. Taking the group through will be curator Dr. Shirley Cherry who grew up in a time of Jim Crow in a home without electricity. She attended Tuskegee paying her tuition with the earnings her mother made working in a laundry where Klansmen took their robes to be cleaned and ironed.

This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at the Central Restaurant.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9
MONTGOMERY

Begin the morning with a short walk to the Rosa Parks Museum, where the civil rights movement truly found its footing in 1955. The museum is set in front of the bus stop where Parks took her defiant stand in the pivotal moment that is recreated at the museum.

End the morning at Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jr. was pastor from 1954-1960. Stand in the pulpit from which he preached about his passionate views on the power of nonviolence and civil disobedience. Meeting the group will be Wanda Battle who currently oversees the church.

Enjoy lunch at Chris’ Hot Dogs, which was founded on historic Dexter Street in 1917.

Walk a short distance to the Freedom Rides Museum, located in the former Greyhound Bus Station. On May 20, 1961, a group of Freedom Riders were attacked by a local mob at the Montgomery Greyhound Bus Station.

End the day at the Equal Justice Initiative, an organization committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. We will request a meeting with the organization’s Founder and Executive Director, Bryan Stevenson.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
MONTGOMERY

Begin the morning with a visit the Southern Poverty Law Center, a non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry. Meet with Lecia Brooks, Outreach Director at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Stop by the Civil Rights Memorial where Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer Maya Lin created a circular black granite table that records the names of the martyrs and chronicles the history of the movement in lines that radiate like the hands of a clock. Water emerges from the table’s center and flows evenly across the top. Engraved on a curved black granite wall behind the table is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s well-known paraphrase of Amos 5:24, “We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.”

Enjoy lunch at Dreamland BBQ.

After lunch visit the newly opened Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration.

Created by the Equal Justice Initiative, the museum looks into the history of racial injustice and the narratives that have sustained injustice across generations. The museum is situated on a site in Montgomery where enslaved people were once warehoused. A block from one of the most prominent slave auction spaces in America, the Legacy Museum is steps away from an
Alabama dock and rail station where tens of thousands of black people were trafficked during the 19th century.

Continue on to the Equal Justice Initiative’s National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The memorial is the nation’s first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence. The Memorial for Peace and Justice was conceived with the hope of creating a sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America’s history of racial inequality.

Dinner is at your leisure this evening.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11
MONTGOMERY

This morning attend the 10:30am church service at the Dexter Street Church.

From here drive about an hour to Selma for a chance to learn about the Selma to Montgomery marches which were part of a series of civil-rights protests that occurred in 1965 in Alabama. As the world watched, the protesters—under the protection of federalized National Guard troops—finally, on their third attempt, achieved their goal, walking around the clock for three days to reach Montgomery. The historic march, and Martin Luther King, Jr.’s participation in it, raised awareness of the difficulties faced by black voters, and the need for a national Voting Rights Act.

Upon arrival in Selma stop at the outside of the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the site of Malcolm X’s address in support of voting rights, Dr. King’s eulogy for Jimmie Lee Jackson, and Jackson’s funeral. Three marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama began from this church, which also served as the temporary headquarters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Meet with Foot Soldier, Annie Pearl Avery, whose civil rights work spans decades. Annie Pearl joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) at age sixteen. Eventually she became SNCC’s project director for the voter registration effort in Hale County, Alabama. Annie Pearl will discuss with us her experience in the civil rights movement, as well as her experience walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965: Bloody Sunday.

After lunch visit the Selma Interpretive Center, located at the foot of the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where armed forces attacked the first wave of unarmed marchers during Bloody Sunday.

Walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge where beginning on March 21, 1965 marchers walked for five days to Montgomery camping during the night in the fields of farmers sympathetic to their cause.

Continue by road, along the 54 miles known as the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail. Stop at the Lowndes Interpretive Center which is dedicated to those who peacefully marched from Selma to Montgomery to gain the right to vote. The museum houses exhibits on the death of seminarian Jonathan Daniels; the slaying of Viola Liuzzo, a white woman who assisted marchers by transporting them to Selma; and the establishment of “Tent City,” which housed families dislodged by white landowners in Lowndes County.

Return to Montgomery mid-afternoon.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Renaissance Montgomery Hotel (B, L, D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12
DEPART

Depart for your independent travel to the airport for flights home. (B)