

St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Preaching and Public Theology of Martin Luther King, Jr.
“Retracing the Steps of Freedom-Alabama Immersion”
(Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma)
April 6-11-2025

Costs

\$950 Trip fee includes

- Lodging - double room, Sunday to Friday, breakfasts included
 - Add \$300 for a single room
- group transportation (small motor coach)
- site entry fees

Course registration required

- course audit price \$360 (even if not an alum)
- credit price \$888 plus fees

Participants provide their own transportation to and from Alabama, and pay for their own lunches and dinners.

Frequently Asked Questions –

1. ***When/how should I arrive in Birmingham?*** Plan to arrive in Birmingham no later than 4:30 pm on Sunday, April 6, 2025. Those who are flying should plan to fly into Birmingham/Shuttlesworth International Airport. The plan is that we will meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 pm to go out for a group meal at one of the nearby restaurants.
2. ***Is there Ground Transportation from the airport to the hotel?*** The hotel does not have a shuttle service to/from the airport. Uber and Taxi service runs on a 24-hour basis, and the cost is about \$20 one-way. The hotel is about 20 minutes from the airport.
3. ***Where will be staying?*** We will be staying at the Comfort Inn, Birmingham Homewood, located at 226 Summit Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35209. The phone number of the hotel is 205-719-2414. As a part of the participant cost for the course/trip, lodging is being arranged and paid for by the Ecumenical Institute, so ***there is no need to make individual hotel reservations***. Please let Galen Zook know whether you will need a single or double room.

4. ***Where and how will we eat?*** Meals will include continental breakfast at the hotel each morning (no charge), and moderately priced lunch and dinner as we travel each day (purchased on your own). Meal costs per day should run between \$20-25. There is a lot of southern fare and soul food along the way, and we'll probably be eating at a variety of different stops. Some people have found that they also like to take snacks to eat during the day(s) as we travel. If some have dietary restrictions, please let us know and we'll do our best to accommodate along the way.
5. ***Is there shopping near the hotel?*** Yes, there is a Walmart and other smaller stores at which to buy food at shopping centers near the hotel and several small restaurants at which to eat.
6. ***How should I dress?*** Dress for the week is casual and should include very good walking shoes, loose-fitting clothes, and a jacket /light coat. The temperatures in Alabama in April can range from 45-65 degrees. We will have water in the vehicle as we travel.
7. ***What will be the daily mode of transportation?*** The plan is that we will travel as a group each day in a small/medium-sized bus.
8. ***Do I need to bring the assigned texts?*** There's no need to bring your textbooks for the course with you on the immersion, although you will be expected to have done the reading before arriving in Alabama. There will be guided conversation on the readings and the things we see/hear along the way. Please be prepared to discuss your second assignment while we are on immersion.
9. ***When can I plan to leave Birmingham?*** We will finish by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 11, 2025, so flight arrangements for departure out of Birmingham can be made for any time after 2:00 pm.
10. ***Who should I contact if I have further questions?*** Please contact Dr. C. Anthony Hunt, faculty for the course at ahunt@stmarys.edu or 410-652-4135 or Rev. Galen Zook at gzook@stmarys.edu.