In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1896 *Plessy* decision and ruled that “separate was inherently unequal.” Over the past 50 years, great strides have been made in American education in general and African American education in particular. Yet, the promise of this landmark decision has not been achieved. This course will explore the historical roots of the *Brown* case and its legacy. Students will also participate in a 2-day CMSU Africana Studies Symposium that includes a presentation to the first African American graduates at Central Missouri State University in 1959 and a keynote lecture from Cheryl Brown Henderson, younger daughter of the plaintiff, member of the Presidential *Brown v. Board of Education* 50th Anniversary Commission and President of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence & Research.

Course topics include:
- Slave literacy, African American culture and education
- Historically Black schools and colleges
- Educational Inequity, Curriculum, Ethnic Studies, & Testing
- NAACP strategies and the road to *Brown*
- African American education in Missouri including the Kansas City & St. Louis school desegregation cases
- Desegregation in Higher Education
- School Busing, Magnet, Charter, and school choice movements