

Class explains King's philosophy

The Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr., a class started after a poll indicated students were interested in



the subject, begins its ninth year as a UNL-offered class this semester.

Philosophy professor Robert Anderson, who is teaching the course, said the Martin Luther King class was among four or five ideas suggested by students in a 1977 poll. The philosophy of "Star Trek," "M.A.S.H." and Woody Allen were other classes suggested. The class was first offered in the spring of 1978.

Philosophy 146 is a one credit mini-course that begins March 31.

Anderson said philosophy mini-courses are offered to help students "get a feel for what philosophy really is."

The course is divided into two sections. The first half concentrates on King's background. Students become acquainted with the trends in theology from the past century, and attention is focused on the doctrines that influenced King. Walter Rauschenbush and Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent philosophy gain discussion because of their

influence on King's actions and beliefs.

In the second half of the course, students look at King's formulations, terminology and his accomplishments toward desegregation — both the immediate effects in the 1950s and '60s, and the longer-lasting influences and effects.

"The course is important because of the man King was," Anderson said. "He did not receive his great power and support from an election, but accomplished these qualities by greater things of a moral kind." The course attracts students because of King's statements as a moral leader and the non-violent technique that he used, he said.

King's famous non-violent campaign won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. King also established the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which was responsible for most of the movements against segregation. King was born January 15, 1929, and was assassinated by James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968.

Spire: We should honor Dr. King by carrying on his quest

By LeAnne Lovings
Staff Reporter

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be deeply disappointed if he were to see how little his dream of equality for all has progressed in the world today, said Nebraska's attorney general.

Attorney General Robert Spire spoke Sunday at the Malone Community Center, 2032 U Street, as part of a Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration.

"The best way to honor Dr. King is to ask ourselves, 'How would Dr. King

want us to honor him?' " Spire said. Spire suggested that King would want a celebration through carrying on his quest for equal rights.

Spire said there is a need not just to reflect upon King the man but also King's movement and to act upon that movement.

Certain actions such as the federal government holding back on declaring an obvious means of forced civil rights, serve as symbols that Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "dream" is unimportant, said Spire.

"This to me is disappointing, as I'm sure it would be to Dr. King," said Spire.

Proclamations from the mayor and the governor declaring Monday as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in Lincoln and Nebraska were read, and Duane Harriott, 14, received a standing ovation for his reciting of King's "I Have a Dream" speech entirely from memory.

"Martin Luther King was a man of God and truly a man of peace," Spire said.

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