**History 475B**

**Discussion Questions**

***The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks***

1. What evidence does Theoharis provide about Rosa Parks’ early years that help explain her “life history of being rebellious?”

2. What details about civil rights activism in the 1940s and early 1950s does Theoharis provide that have been left out of the traditional narrative of the Civil Rights Movement?

3. Besides Parks, who were some of the other early challengers to Montgomery’s segregated bus system? What kinds of indignities did black bus riders have to endure before the bus boycott?

4. What leads to the bus boycott after Rosa’s arrest? What role did Parks play in the boycott? What contributes to the boycott’s success?

5. How does the story of the Montgomery Bus Boycott differ in *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks* from the traditional story you heard either in your previous history courses in high school and college?

6. What kinds of hardships did Parks and others face for their civil rights activism? Why has this been left out of the traditional story of Rosa Parks?

7. What kind of activism did Parks participate in after leaving Montgomery? How does her activism in her later years change the way you view her?

8. What’s the best new detail you learned about Parks’ life from this text?