

Professor Maria Rendón  
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Fall Quarter, 2014  
T, Th 11:00 am -12:20 pm  
SSPA 1165  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm  
Social Ecology 1, 212B

## **Urban America: Construction and Consequence**

### Course Objectives:

Students in this course will examine the historical, social, political and economic factors that contributed to the construction of the American urban context as we know it – a context that is highly poverty concentrated and racially/ethnically segregated. Students will also critically assess the consequence of growing up in America’s urban neighborhoods as it relates to education, delinquency, health and other individual and group outcomes.

### Grading:

Students are expected to complete all readings and be prepared for discussion in class. Student learning will be assessed based upon performance in the following assignments.

1.) Midterm exam	25%
2.) Reaction Paper	10%
3.) Paper	30%
4.) Final Exam	25%
5.) Attendance & Participation	10%

### Assignments:

- 1.) **Mid-term exam.** It will be multiple-choice and have short answer questions (scantron and blue book) to test students’ understanding of the reading and lecture material.
- 2.) **Reaction Paper.** This paper will be a 2 page critical response to the **Film: Inequality for All**

- 3.) **Paper:** The paper will be 4-5 pages and will discuss and analyze a specific topic chosen from a list provided in class.
- 4.) **Final Exam.** It will be multiple-choice and short answer/essay (scantron and blue book) and will comprehensively test students' knowledge of course concepts and how they are used.
- 5.) **Participation.** Students will be evaluated based on their attendance to class, participation in class discussion and engagement with class material during office hours with the professor and/or teaching assistant.

In addition, students can expect **five pop quizzes** during the quarter. **Four** of these will count for participation (2% each).

### **Required Readings/Books to Purchase**

- Katznelson, Ira. 2005. When Affirmative Action was White: An Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America. W.W. Norton & Company.
- Rios, Victor. 2011. Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys. New York University Press.

### **Weekly Topics, Readings and Assignments**

#### **WEEK ZERO            INTRODUCTION**

##### ***10/2 Thursday***

- Engels, Friedrich. 1845. "The Great Towns" from the Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844" in *The City Reader*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (pp. 46-54)

#### **WEEK ONE            SLUMS AND CREATION OF THE GHETTO**

##### ***10/7 Tuesday***

- Readings:
  - Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1993. Ch. 2 "The Construction of the Ghetto" In American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of an Underclass pp. 17-26

- Spear, Allen. "The Origins of the Urban Ghetto, 1870-1915," in Nathan Huggins et. al., eds., *Key Issues in the Afro-American Experience* (1971) 153-166.

**10/9, Thursday**

- Readings:
  - Massey and Denton. Ch. 2 p. 26—42
  - Osofky, Gilbert. 1966. Ch. 9 "Harlem Trajedy: An Emerging Slum" in Harlem: The Making of a Ghetto. HarperCollins Publishers. pp. 127-149

**Related Research Tool: Testbed for the Redlining Archives of California's Exclusionary Spaces (T-Races).** <http://salt.unc.edu/T-RACES/>

**WEEK TWO            MIGRATION, NATIVISM & THE HARDENING OF RACIAL & CLASS LINES**

**10/14Tuesday**

- Readings:
  - Camarillo, Albert. 1996. Ch. 9 "Urban Chicanos in Predepression Southern California" in Chicanos in a Changing Society: From Mexican Pueblos to American Barrios in Santa Barbara and Southern California, 1848-1930 pp. 198-229

**10/16 Thursday      Guest Lecture "Latino: Los Angeles", Professor Rudy Torres**

- Readings:
  - Massey, Douglas. 2007. Ch 4. "Building a Better Underclass", pp. 113-127 in Categorically Unequal: The American Stratification System. Russell Sage Foundation

**WEEK THREE            EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING ISOLATION**

**10/21 Tuesday**

- Readings:

- Katznelson, Ira. 2005. Ch. 1-3 “Welfare in Black and White” in When Affirmative Action was White: An Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America. W.W. Norton & Company. pp. 1-79 (especially chapters 2 & 3)

**10/23 Thursday Guest Lecture “Latino: Los Angeles”, Professor Rudy Torres**

- Readings:
  - Massey and Denton. Ch. 2 pp. 42-59 (pick up from week 1)
  - *The Making of Ferguson, Public Policies at the Root of Its Troubles* (<http://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/#executive-summary>)

**WEEK FOUR EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING ISOLATION**

**10/28, Tuesday**

- Readings:
  - Katznelson. Ch. 4-6 pp. 80- 172 (especially chapters 4 & 5)

**10/30, Thursday**

- Readings Katznelson. Complete

**WEEK FIVE**

**11/4 Tuesday Deindustrialization and a Changing Economy**

- Wilson, William Julius. 2007. “From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos” in The City Reader. Edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout. Fourth Edition. Urban Reader Series. pp. 110-119

**11/6 Thursday THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION**

Readings:

- **Midterm Exam** Bring Scantron and pencils

**WEEK SIX THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION (Cont.)**

**11/11 Tuesday Veterans Day Holiday – No Class**

Readings:

- [Kneebone, Elizabeth, Carey Nadeau, and Alan Berube. 2011. "The Re-Emergence of Concentrated Poverty: Metropolitan Trends in the 2000s." The Brookings Institution \(\)](#)
- [Read "Cul-de-Sac Poverty." The New York Times](#)

**11/13 Thursday**

**Film and Discussion: Inequality for All**

- **Assignment: Reaction Paper**, What is missing in the Film?  
Due Monday, 11/17/14 by noon in EEE Dropbox

Readings:

- [The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income](#)

**WEEK SEVEN**

**PERSISTENCE OF THE COLOR LINE & POST 1965  
IMMIGRATION**

**11/18 Tuesday**

- Massey, Douglas. 2007. *Post-Civil Rights Era Discrimination* in Ch. 3 p. 74-93
- Massey, Douglas. 2007. Ch 4. "Building a Better Underclass", pp. 127-157
- **Optional**: Gonzales, Roberto G. 2011. "Learning to be illegal: Undocumented youth and shifting legal contexts in the transition to adulthood". American Sociological Review 76(4). pp. 602-619

**11/20 Thursday**

• Readings:

- Briggs, Xavier de Souza. 2005. *People and Places: Changing Demography and Settlement Patterns* ( Ch 2) in The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America pp. 21-29
- - ["Redlining Revisited: Mortgage Lending Patterns in Sacramento 1930-2004"](#), Jesus Hernandez, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Volume 33.2, June 2009, pp. 291-313.

## WEEK 8      SCHOOLS AND PRISONS

### **11/25 Tuesday      *Schooling in the Urban Metropolitan Landscape***

Readings:

- [Press Release: The Civil Rights Project Report “Brown at 60: Great Progress, A Long Retreat and an Uncertain Future”](#)
- Massey, Douglas. 2007. Ch 3 “Reworking the Color Line” pp. 93-112

### **11/27 Thursday      Thanksgiving Break -- Enjoy**

- [Listen to excerpts from “Harper High School, Prologue & Part 1.” 2013. \*This American Life with Ira Glass\*](#)
- Rendón, Maria. 2014. Caught Up: How Urban Violence and Peer Ties Contributes to School Non-Completion. Social Problems.
- Start reading [Rios: Punished](#)

## WEEK NINE SCHOOLS AND PRISONS (cont.)

### **12/2 Tuesday**

- Readings:
  - Rios, Victor. 2011. [Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys](#). New York University Press. PART I : Hypercriminalization , pp. 1-94

### **12/4 Thursday**

- Readings:
  - Rios, Victor. 2011. PART II: Consequences pp. 95-167

## **PAPER DUE: Friday, 12/5 @ 5pm**

## WEEK TEN      NEW DIRECTIONS IN URBAN AMERICA

### **12/9 Tuesday      *Gentrification or Gentefication?***

• Readings:

- Hyra, Derek. 2012. "Conceptualizing the New Urban Renewal: Comparing the Past to the Present." *Urban Affairs Review* 48(4): 498-527.
- [Read: New Faces and a Contentious Revival](#)

**12/11 Thursday Overview of Urban American Course**

## **FINALS WEEK**

**Final: Thursday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm.**

### **Recommended Reading**

- Alexander, Michelle. 2010. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. The New Press.
- Briggs, Xavier de Souza (Ed). 2005. The Geography of Opportunity: Race and Housing Choice in Metropolitan America. Brookings Institution Press.
- Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1993. American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass. Harvard University Press.