

Professor Maria Rendón  
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Fall Quarter, 2016  
T, Th 3:30-4:50  
SSL 290  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays 4:50-5:20 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	30%
2.) Paper	30%
3.) Final Exam	30%
4.) 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.) **Paper:** The paper will be 4-5 pages and will discuss and analyze a specific topic chosen from a list provided in class.
- 3.) **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.

4.) **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 **three pop quizzes** during the quarter. These will count for participation (3% 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**

***9/22 Thursday***

Readings:

- [Trump's Rhetoric of White Nostalgia](#) - Trump's core promise is to return to white, working-class Americans what they feel they've lost.
- [The Diverse Left and White Working-Class Right](#) - Does the Democratic Party—open to all immigrants, races, genders, and sexual orientations—have enough room for less educated white voters? July 28, 2016 – *The Atlantic*
- [Black Lives Matter's political clout grows as Democrats disavow leaked memo](#), *The Washington Times*
- [Donald Trump is doing a great job making people like immigrants more](#), *The Washington Post* 9/13/16

- Optional:
  - 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)
  - Examine: [Mapping Poverty in America](#)

## WEEK ONE            SLUMS AND CREATION OF THE GHETTO

**9/27 Tuesday**

- Readings:
  - [Segregated From Its History, How 'Ghetto' Lost Its Meaning](#)
  - 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.

**9/29, 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
- **Optional:**
  - [Ghetto - An American Definition \(Documentary On The Word Ghetto\)](#)
  - ***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

## **10/4 Tuesday**

- 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

## **10/6 Thursday**

- 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**

### **10/11 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)
  - [Watch: Makers Versus Takers: A Sensible Way to Debate the Role of Government](#)

### **10/13 Thursday**

- 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](#)

## **WEEK FOUR EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING ISOLATION (cont.)**

### **10/18, Tuesday**

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

**10/20, Thursday**

- Readings Katznelson. Complete

**WEEK FIVE**

**10/25, 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
- [Why Sociologist William Julius Wilson Could Have Predicted Baltimore More Than 25 Years Ago](#)

**10/27, Thursday              Midterm Exam Bring Scantron and pencils**

**WEEK SIX              THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION**

**11/1 Tuesday**

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](#)
- [The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income](#)
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- **Extra Credit: Film and Discussion: Inequality for All**

**11/3 Thursday      PERSISTENCE OF THE COLOR LINE & POST 1965 IMMIGRATION**

Readings:

- Massey, Douglas. 2007. Ch 4. "Building a Better Underclass", pp. 127-157

- [Read: Starting From the Bottom: Why Mexicans are the Most Successful Immigrants in America](#)
- **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

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

**11/8 Tuesday**

- Massey, Douglas. 2007. *Post-Civil Rights Era Discrimination* in Ch. 3 p. 74-93
  - [Watch: Next time someone says racism isn't real, show them this 3-minute video](#)

**11/10 Thursday SCHOOLS AND PRISONS**

***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

Watch:

**WEEK EIGHT      SCHOOLS AND PRISONS**

**11/15 Tuesday      *Schooling in the Urban Metropolitan Landscape***

- [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

**In Class: Separate and Unequal:**

- Watch: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/separate-and-unequal/>

**11/17 Thursday      SCHOOLS AND PRISONS (cont.)**

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

**In Class:** [Watch: Mass Incarceration, Visualized](#)

**WEEK NINE              SCHOOLS AND PRISONS (cont.)**

**11/22 Tuesday**

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

**11/24 Thursday              Thanksgiving Break -- Enjoy**

**PAPER DUE: FRIDAY, 11/25 @ 11:59 pm in Dropbox**

**WEEK TEN              NEW DIRECTIONS IN URBAN AMERICA**

**11/29 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](#)

**12/1 Thursday              Overview of Urban American Course**

**FINALS WEEK**

**Final: Tuesday, December 6, 2016 @ 4pm**

**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.