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**


**Weekly Topics, Readings and Assignments**

**WEEK ZERO INTRODUCTION**

**10/2 Thursday**


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

**10/7 Tuesday**

- Readings:

10/9, Thursday

• Readings:
  o Massey and Denton. Ch. 2  p. 26—42


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

10/14 Tuesday

• Readings:

10/16 Thursday  Guest Lecture “Latino: Los Angeles”, Professor Rudy Torres

• Readings:

WEEK THREE  EXCLUSIONARY POLICIES, PRACTICES & GROWING ISOLATION

10/21 Tuesday

• Readings:

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)

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


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:
  o Read “Cul-de-Sac Poverty.” The New York Times

11/13 Thursday  Film and Discussion: Inequality for All
  o Assignment: Reaction Paper, What is missing in the Film?
    Due Monday, 11/17/14 by noon in EEE Dropbox

Readings:
  o The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income

WEEK SEVEN  PERSISTENCE OF THE COLOR LINE & POST 1965 IMMIGRATION

11/18 Tuesday
  o Massey, Douglas. 2007. Post-Civil Rights Era Discrimination in Ch. 3 p. 74-93

11/20 Thursday
  • Readings:
WEEK 8  SCHOOLS AND PRISONS

11/25 Tuesday  Schooling in the Urban Metropolitan Landscape

Readings:


11/27 Thursday  Thanksgiving Break -- Enjoy

- Listen to excerpts from “Harper High School, Prologue & Part 1.” 2013. This American Life with Ira Glass
- Start reading Rios: Punished

WEEK NINE SCHOOLS AND PRISONS (cont.)

12/2 Tuesday

- Readings:

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:

o 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

