

Professor Maria G. Rendón

[mgrendon@uci.edu](mailto:mgrendon@uci.edu)

[operezfi@uci.edu](mailto:operezfi@uci.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm

Social Ecology 1, 212B  
244

Teaching Assistant, Omar Perez-Figueroa

Office Hours: Weds. 2:00-3:00 pm

Social Ecology 1,

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

Fall Quarter, 2017

T., Th. 9:30 am -11:00 pm

SE2 1304

### 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**

**9/28 Thursday**

- 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)

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

**10/3 Tuesday**

- Readings:



## ISOLATION

### **10/17 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)

### **10/19 Thursday**

- Readings:
  - Massey and Denton. Ch. 2 pp. 42-59 (*pick up from week 1*)
- *Optional: [The Making of Ferguson, Public Policies at the Root of Its Troubles](#)*

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

### **10/24, Tuesday**

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

### **10/26, Thursday**

- Readings Katznelson. Complete

## **WEEK FIVE**

### **10/31 Tuesday            Deindustrialization and a Changing Economy**

- Readings:
  - 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

- o [Watch City Rising: Chapter 1 Legacy](#)

**11/2 Thursday THE RISE OF INEQUALITY & POVERTY CONCENTRATION**

- Readings:

- o *Midterm Exam Bring Scantron and pencils*

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

**11/7 Tuesday Film and Discussion: Inequality for All**

- Readings:

- o [Read "Cul-de-Sac Poverty." \*The New York Times\*](#)
- o [The Foreclosure Crisis and Its Impact on Today's Housing Market](#)
- o Optional: - ["Redlining Revisited: Mortgage Lending Patterns in Sacramento 1930-2004"](#), Jesus Hernandez, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Volume 33.2, June 2009, pp. 2

**11/9 Thursday**

- Readings:

- o [Watch City Rising: Chapter 2 Resiliency](#)
- o Read: [The History of South Central Los Angeles and Its Struggle with Gentrification](#)
- o [The Rise of Residential Segregation by Income](#)

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

**11/14 Tuesday**

- Readings:

- o Massey, Douglas. 2007. *Post-Civil Rights Era Discrimination* in Ch. 3 p. 74-93

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

**11/16 Thursday**

• Readings:

- o 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
- o **Listen to NPR interview:** Segregation In America: 'Dragging On And On

**WEEK 8 SCHOOLS AND PRISONS**

**11/21 Tuesday      *Schooling in the Urban Metropolitan Landscape***

• Readings:

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

**11/23 Thursday      Thanksgiving Break -- Enjoy**

• Readings:

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

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

**11/28 Tuesday**

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

### **11/30 Thursday**

- Readings:
  - Rios, Victor. 2011. PART II: Consequences pp. 95-167
  - [Watch City Rising: Chapter 3 Return to the City](#)
  - Optional: Harry Gamboa's [Chicano Male Unbounded](#)

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

### **WEEK TEN**

### **NEW DIRECTIONS IN URBAN AMERICA**

#### **12/5 Tuesday      *Gentrification or Gentrification?***

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

#### **12/7 Thursday      Overview of Urban American Course**

- [Watch City Rising: Chapter 5 Mobilization](#)

### **FINALS WEEK**

**Final: Thursday, December 14, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 am.**

## **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.