

Ethnic Studies 105/Urban Studies 104: Race and the City

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Office hours: Tuesday, 10:00-10:45 & Thursday, 2-4:30

Overview:

The goal of this class is to demonstrate how urban space takes on racialized meanings and how race serves as an organizing principle within cities. The course asks you to correlate the relationship between race, place, and power. Using race as an analytical tool, we will answer how the city is experienced and imagined differently when using race as our lens.

A range of disciplines will inform our studies, including anthropology, history, urban planning, and media studies. The class itself is organized by historical periodization. Through readings, lectures, and course work, you will establish a deep understanding of urban racial geography.

In order to understand better how race becomes inscribed in the city, we will look at how national changes in policy affect the local level. In our investigation at both the micro and macro levels, we will study public and private spaces, ranging from leisure, work, civic, and cultural spaces. We will examine issues such as the gentrification, grassroots organizing and spatial segregation.

We will also gain an understanding of how the built environment informs people's politics and identities. People operate within the political-economic structure to try to make these systems reflect their needs and to shape public debates. They appropriate, interrupt, and participate in a range of urban spaces through a range of activities including social movements, protests, cultural productions, and voting alliances.

Required Books and Readings:

- 1) Kevin Mumford, *Interzones* (Columbia University Press) 1997.
- 2) Douglas Flamming, *Bound for Freedom: Black Los Angeles in Jim Crow America* (UC Press).
- 3) Ian Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial* (Belknap Press of Harvard University Press).
- 4) Steve Macek, *Urban Nightmares: The Media, the Right, and the Moral Panic over the City* (Minnesota Press).

Selected chapters and journal articles are on electronic reserve (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/services/reserves.html>).

All books are available at Groundworks Bookstore, 858.452.9625. The books will be on reserve in the library.

Creating a learning environment: Only a portion of what you learn in this course will be from your instructors and the readings. Your classmates will play an instrumental role in your learning experience. As such, come to class prepared and be ready to join in the conversation. The more involved you become, the more you will gain. Support your opinions with what you learned in the readings, sections, and lecture. Benjamin Franklin once said, “Seek first to understand, then to be understood.” Listen carefully to others before you decide where you stand in relation to their argument and how to respond in a respectful and productive manner. Please also refer to UCSD’s Principles of Community, <http://www-vcba.ucsd.edu/principles.htm>.

Requirements and Grading:

Primary Research Paper, Due Weeks 3, 4, 5 depending on which book you pick, 30%

- Paper on *Interzones* due Thursday, week 3
- Paper on *Bound for Freedom*, Thursday week 5
- Paper on *Racism on Trial*, Thursday week 6

Group Work: Tuesday, Week 3; Thursday Week 4, Tuesday Week 6, 10 % Each

Final Paper, due date of scheduled final, 40%

ASSIGNMENTS:

Group work: You will break up into groups of four. You will work with the same group throughout the quarter. You will turn in your work at the end of the class and also present your answers to the class. If you are not prepared to participate, you will be asked to work alone.

If you need to miss class on the day we do group work, you need to make up the assignment by turning in a 2-3-page paper organized around them themes of the readings within one week of the class you missed. The paper should be an analysis of the main theories introduced in the readings, not a summary.

Primary Research Paper: For your papers, you will look up at 2-3 primary documents from the *Los Angeles Times* or the *New York Times*. (You can access these websites by going to the UCSD library’s main page, going to databases, and then looking up *Los Angeles Times* or the *New York Times*.) You can access these newspapers through the database on the UCSD website which is restricted to UC campus. You will analyze the sources within the context of the time period and explain how the documents illustrate arguments made or shed new light on the readings. The objective is to see how you apply/challenge/add to /overturn the narratives we read in the texts. You may also include and analyze the photographs in the articles.

Final Paper: In lieu of a final, you will turn in a paper on the issues raised in Part III of the course.

Late Policy: I deduct 7 points from papers for every 24 hours they are late. Papers are due at 11 am on the due date. There is no way to accommodate lateness or absence for group assignments. If you do not participate in them, you will receive a zero.

If you have a medical emergency, please produce a doctor’s note and I will do my best to work with you.

Extra credit: Extra-credit assignments are worth up to 1 point added to your final score in the course. You may turn in up to 3 extra credit assignments. Up to two extra credits can be earned through written reports on the lectures given at the Center for Race and Ethnicity’s weekly colloquium held on Wednesdays at 3 PM in Social Science Building 107. Reports are due within one

week of the lecture. Extra credit can be earned by making a presentation on your findings through the primary research you did.

Readings: Completing the readings by the date assigned will help you get the most out of lectures and presentations. Your objective is to draw the connections between the readings, lectures and discussions. The lectures will elaborate on some of the key concepts in the readings, but they will not be a review of the readings.

Schedule and Assignments:

PART I:

Week 1: Race As An Organizing Principle in the Urban Landscape

Introduction and overview of the class

Readings: Kay J. Anderson, "The Idea of Chinatown: The Power of Place and Institutional Practice in the Making of a Racial Category," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 77, No. 4. (Dec., 1987), pp. 580-598.

Week 2: Drawing Sexual Color Lines

Terms to know: social geography, vice borderlands

Reading: Mumford, *Interzones*.

Tuesday: Introduction, (not chapter 1) Chapters 2, 3

Thursday: 4, 5, 6 (not chapter 7).

Week 3:

Reading: Mumford, *Interzones*.

Tuesday: Chapter 8

Group assignment for *Interzones

Thursday: Fighting for Freedom in the City

Reading: Flamming, *Bound for Freedom*, Introduction and Chapter 2

PAPERS ON *Interzones* DUE THURSDAY AT 11 AM.

-In class presentations of primary sources for extra-credit on the day the paper is due. You must tell me by Tuesday of that week if you are presenting.

Week 4:

Tuesday: Reading: Flamming, *Bound for Freedom* Chapters 3-4, 6, 10

Thursday: * Group assignment for *Bound for Freedom*

Note: I hope no student is in the position in which they need to drop a course. Nonetheless, the reality is that some are. The University assigns "W" grades for courses dropped after end of fourth week.

Week 5: Fighting for Justice in the City

Tuesday: Reading: Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 3 (not 2).

Thursday: Reading: Haney-Lopez, *Racism on Trial*, Introduction, Chapters 4-6

PAPERS ON *Bound for Freedom* DUE TUESDAY AT 11 AM.

-In class presentations of primary sources for extra-credit on the day the paper is due. You must tell me by Thursday of the previous week if you are presenting.

Week 6:

Tuesday: * Group assignment for *Racism on Trial*

Thursday: PAPERS ON *Racism on Trial* DUE TUESDAY AT 11 AM.

-In class presentations of primary sources for extra-credit on the day the paper is due. You must tell me by Tuesday of that week if you are presenting.

PART II: Moral Panics in the City

Week 7: Tuesday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Introduction, Chapter 1

Thursday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Chapters 2-3

Week 8: Tuesday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Chapter 4

Thursday: Readings: Macek, *Urban Nightmares*, Chapter 5

Week 9: The Cultural Politics of Urban Space

What is the relationship between gentrification and Latinization of space work together? How does race and ethnicity shape economic empowerment?

Terms to Know: gentrification, ethnography, and neo-liberalism

Readings: Arlene Davila, *Barrio Dreams: Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and the Neoliberal City*

-Chapters 1 and 2 (electronic reserves)

Film clips: "Flag Wars"

Week 10:

Readings: (electronic reserves) "Los Angeles: Turning a Lens Homeward: A High School Student Chronicles the Effects of Gentrification on Her Neighborhood," Daniel Hernandez, Los Angeles Times, Jan 24, 2005.

"History Repeats Itself in Echo Park," *Los Angeles Times*, Jan 29, 2005.

Gloria Ohland, "Renaissance in the Barrio," *LA Weekly*, November 19-25, 2004

Los Angeles Times, article on USC and downtown Los Angeles

Final: Take-home paper due on the day of the scheduled final. The final will be a primary research paper, like the first paper, plus a question that requires a 2-page response.