

# University of Illinois at Chicago

## Sociology 540

### Social Institutions: Racial Capitalism

Spring 2013

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**Office:** 4125 BSB

**Office hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15 and by appointment

#### Course Description

For decades, scholars have debated the relationship between race and class in the modern world. While much of the literature on race discounts capitalism and much of the literature on capitalism ignores race, there is a tradition of radical scholarship that analyzes the intersections – or articulations – between racism and capitalism. In this course, we will trace the genealogy of this scholarship. The course will begin with classical texts by WEB DuBois, CLR James, E. Franklin Frazier, and Oliver Cromwell Cox. It will then explore the analysis of race and class in struggles for social justice – from communists, to civil rights activists, to feminists of color. After looking at several theoretical approaches to the study of race and class, we will end by considering contemporary forms of racial neoliberalism and neoliberal racism. The course will be theoretically rigorous and reading and writing intensive.

#### Assignments

You will choose how you want to be graded in this course. There are two options: Track 1 and Track 2. Let me know by the fourth week of class which track you have chosen.

*Track 1: Three papers.* Designed for first-year students and most second-year students, this track will consist of three short papers and a book presentation.

10% - *Attendance and participation:* In order to do well in this class, it is important that you are present and actively participating in every discussion. Each week we will begin the class with a round of questions and/or comments from students.

75% - *Papers:* You will write three papers on topics that I assign. Each of the papers will be worth 25% of your grade and must be 7-8 pages in length (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). I will hand out topics two weeks before the deadlines. You will be expected to draw on and analyze the readings that we have covered in that section of the course.

*Paper 1* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 22

*Paper 2* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 22

*Paper 3* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 3

15% - *Presentation*: Each person will present to the class a summary and analysis of one book from a list that I provide. On the second to last week of class, you will present the main arguments, analyze the contributions, and lead a discussion of the book.

*Track II: Long paper*. Designed for more advanced students, this track will consist of a long paper and a presentation of your work.

10% - *Attendance and participation*: In order to do well in this class, it is important that you are present and actively participating in every discussion. Each week we will begin the class with a round of questions and/or comments from students.

75% - *Paper*: You will write a 20+page paper on a topic of your choice (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins). Your paper must draw on and analyze the readings and topics that we cover in the course. In preparation for the final paper, you will also submit two short memos:

*Memo 1* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 22

*Memo 2* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 22

*Final Paper* is due by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 3

15% - *Presentation*: Each of you will present your paper to the class. On the last week, you will present your main arguments and lead a discussion of your work.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero on the assignment and disciplinary action.

Familiarize yourself with the UIC guidelines and penalties for academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/studentconduct.html>

## Readings

There are eight required books for this course. All other readings will be available on Blackboard. Please make sure you obtain copies of the following books:

DuBois, WEB. 1935/1998. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. New York: Free Press.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2002. *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Goldberg, David Theo. 2009. *The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell.

James, CLR. 1963/1989. *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. New York: Vintage Books.

Kelley, Robin DG. 2002. *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Muñoz, Carolina Bank. 2008. *Transnational Tortillas: Race, Gender and Shop-Floor Politics in Mexico and the United States*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. London: Routledge.

Robinson, Cedric. 1983/2000. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

## **Expectations**

As with any learning experience, your level of engagement will determine what you get out of this course. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity by actively participating in discussions, reading the assigned articles, and reflecting on your own experiences.

Ask questions. If there is anything that you do not understand or that you are having trouble with, ask for help. I want to make sure that you are learning the material.

Please tell me about your learning needs. If you have special needs or if there is anything that might affect your grade that you think I should know about, be sure to let me know. Please tell me early in the semester. I am willing to work with you to ensure that everyone has the opportunities and resources they need in order to do well in this class.

Finally, it is crucial that our discussions remain respectful. *Always engage in debate about ideas. Never engage in personal attacks.*

*Note: The syllabus is subject to change. If I make changes, I will send an announcement letting you know that there is an updated version of the syllabus posted on Blackboard.*

## **Sociology 540: Racial Capitalism Spring 2013**

### **Week 1 – January 15: Introductions**

### **Week 2 – January 22: W.E.B. DuBois**

DuBois, W.E.B. 1935/1998. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*. New York: Free Press. Chapters: 1-4, 7 (pp. 182-191, 206-227), 9 (pp. 345-379), 14, 16.

*Recommended:* Gramsci, Antonio. 1926/1978. "Some Aspects of the Southern Question." In A. Gramsci, *Selections from Political Writings, 1921-1926*. New York: International Publishers.

### **Week 3 – January 29: C.L.R. James**

James, C.L.R. 1963/1989. *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*. New York: Vintage Books. Chapters: 1-8, 12.

*Recommended:* Robinson, Cedric. 1983/2000. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Chapter 10.

### **Week 4 – February 5: Frazier and Cox**

Frazier, E. Franklin. 1957/1997. *Black Bourgeoisie*. New York: Free Press. Chapters: Introduction, 1-2, 6-7, 10.

Cox, Oliver Cromwell. 1948. *Caste, Class, and Race*. New York: Doubleday Press. Chapters: 16, 18, 23, 25.

*Recommended:* Robinson, Cedric. 1983/2000. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Chapter 8.

### **Week 5 – February 12: Freedom Dreams**

Kelley, Robin D.G. 2002. *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*. Boston: Beacon Press. Chapters: 2, 3, 5.

Lenin, Vladimir I. 1920. "Draft Theses on National and Colonial Questions."

<http://marxists.anu.edu.au/archive/lenin/works/1920/jun/05.htm>

Fanon, Frantz. 1961. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press. Chapter 3. (57)

Cruse, Harold. 1962/2009. "Revolutionary Nationalism and the Afro-American" in *Rebellion or Revolution*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 74-96.

Boggs, James. 1963/2009. *The American Revolution*. New York: Monthly Review Press. Chapters: 2-4.

Combahee River Collective. 1977/1981. "A Black Feminist Statement." In C. Moraga and G. Anzaldúa (Eds.), *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. New York: Kitchen Table Press, pp. 210-218.

*Recommended:* Robinson, Cedric. 1983/2000. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Chapters: 6-7.

### **Week 6 – February 19: Articulation and Intersectionality**

- Hall, Stuart. 1980. "Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance." In *Sociological Theories: Race and Colonialism*. Paris: UNESCO, pp. 305-345.
- Hart, Gillian. 2008. "Changing Concepts of Articulation: Political Stakes in South Africa Today." *Review of African Political Economy* 34: 85-101
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 1990. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. London: Routledge. Chapters: 1, 10, 11.
- Yuval-Davis, Nira. 2006. "Intersectionality and Feminist Politics." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 13(3): 193-209.
- Smith, Andrea. 2006. "Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy: Rethinking Women of Color Organizing." In *The Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge: South End Press, pp. 66-73.

Paper 1/Memo 1 due by 5:00 pm on Friday, February 22

### **Week 7 – February 26: Empires**

- Robinson, Cedric. 1983/2000. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Chapters: 1, 4, 5.
- Balibar, Etienne and Immanuel Wallerstein. 1991. *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*. New York: Verso. Chapters: 3, 4, 12.
- Dirlik, Arif. 1997. "Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism." *Critical Inquiry* 20: 328-56.
- Monanty, Chandra T. 2003. "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism." in *Feminism Without Borders*, Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 43-84.

### **Week 8 – March 5: States**

- Foucault, Michel. 1976/2003. "March 17, 1976." In *Society Must Be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France 1975-76*. New York: Picador, pp. 239-263.
- Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. London: Routledge. Chapters: 4-5.
- Jung, Moon-Kie. 2011. "Constituting the US Empire-State and White Supremacy." In MK Jung, JH Costa Vargas, and E Bonilla-Silva (Eds.), *State of White Supremacy: Racism, Governance, and the United States*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 1-23.
- Ritchie, Andrea. 2006. "Law Enforcement Violence Against Women of Color." In *The Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge: South End Press, pp. 138-156.
- Rana, Junaid. 2011. "The Language of Terror: Panic, Peril, Racism." In MK Jung, JH Costa Vargas, and E Bonilla-Silva (Eds.), *State of White Supremacy: Racism, Governance, and the United States*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 211-228.

### **Week 9 – March 12: Citizenship**

- Glenn, Eveyln Nakano. 2002. *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

### **Week 10 – March 19: Neoliberal Racism**

- Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s*. London: Routledge. Chapters: 7, Conclusion, Epilogue.
- Giroux, Henry. 2004. *The Terror of Neoliberalism*. London: Paradigm Publishers. Ch. 2.
- Davis, Dana-Ain. 2007. "Narrating the Mute: Racializing and Racism in a Neoliberal Moment." *Souls* 9(4): 346-360.
- Roberts, David J. and Minelle Mahtani. 2010. "Neoliberalizing Race, Racing Neoliberalism: Placing 'Race' in Neoliberal Discourses." *Antipode* 42(2): 248-257.

*Paper 2/Memo 2 due by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 22*

### **Week 11 – March 26: Spring Break**

### **Week 12 – April 2: Racial Neoliberalism**

- Goldberg, David Theo. 2009. *The Threat of Race: Reflections on Racial Neoliberalism*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell. Chapters: 1, 3-4, 6- 8.
- Recommended:* Dirlik, Arif. 2008. "Race Talk, Race, and Contemporary Racism." *PMLA* 123(5): 1363-1379.

### **Week 13 – April 9: Exploitation**

- Munoz, Carolina Bank. 2008. *Transnational Tortillas: Race, Gender and Shop-Floor Politics in Mexico and the United States*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Bonacich, Edna, Sabrina Alimahomed, and Jake Wilson. 2008. "The Racialization of Global Labor." *American Behavioral Scientist* 5(3): 342-355.

### **Week 14 – April 16: Surplus Populations**

- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 1998/1999. "Globalization and US Prison Growth: From Military Keynesianism to Post-Keynesian Militarism." *Race & Class* 40 (2/3): 171-188.
- Wacquant, Loic. 2010. "Class, Race, and Hyperincarceration in Revanchist America." *Dædalus* 139(3): 74-90.
- Barchiesi, Franco. 2008. "Wage Labor, Precarious Employment, and Social Inclusion in the Making of South Africa's Postapartheid Transition." *African Studies Review* 51(2): 119-142.
- Johnson, Cedric. 2011. "The Urban Precariat, Neoliberalization, and the Soft Power of Humanitarian Design." *Journal of Developing Societies* 27(3-4): 445-475.
- Clarno, Andy. 2013. "The Constitution of State/Space and the Limits of 'Autonomy' in South Africa and Palestine/Israel." In G. Steinmetz (Ed.), *Sociology and Empire*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 588-626.

### **Week 15 – April 23: Presentations by students on Track I**

### **Week 15 – April 30: Presentations by students on Track II**

*Paper 3/Final Paper due by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 3*