This course is dedicated to exploring the interplay of social, historical, and spatial forces that have shaped post-emancipation African American life. Although primarily focused on race, place and space as they figure in the African-American experience, the course readings also address American racial configurations as they affect other Americans: from Euro-Americans to Native Americans. Many readings also figure gender as a central feature of racial stratification and racial thought.

Chronologically arranged, the course readings cover the migration and remigration of black Southerners after emancipation; the history of Jim Crow segregation in the South, black urbanization in the North; impact of immigration on African American communities; racial conflicts over residential and recreation spaces; the racial geographies of deindustrialization and incarceration; and the political effects of suburbanization.

Course Requirements

Regular attendance, participation, and careful reading are key requirements for this course. In addition, students will be asked to lead some of our discussions and to complete three written assignments. They include:

- A set of discussion questions for one week’s readings (sign up for specific reading)
- A 5-7 page book review (sign up to write about a specific book)
- A 12-15 page final paper on a race, space and place-related topic. This paper due on Monday December 16, 3013. Depending on what best serves your needs, your final paper can be a research proposal, historiography paper, or interdisciplinary literature review. You can choose a topic represented in the weekly reading topics, or craft a topic of your own devising. Your essay should be analytical rather than comprehensive, but it should assess several different works. Please plan to discuss at least three books, and two articles. The works you discuss can include course readings, but must also include at least one book and one article that are not on the syllabus. Your final paper should not focus primarily on any work you’ve already covered in the other two assignments.

Readings

Articles

Most of articles in the assigned reading are available online; but I have also uploaded them to our Sakai Resources Folder.
Books

Course readings include the following books, which are all available on Amazon:


Glenn, Evelyn Nakano, *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shape American Citizenship* Harvard University Press,


Course Schedule

1. **September 5: Introduction: Overviews**

2. **September 12: The Geography of Slavery and Freedom**

3. **September 19: Race, Citizenship and the Geography of Free Labor**
   Glenn, Evelyn Nakano, *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shape American Citizenship* Harvard University Press,

4. **September 26: The Strange Career of Jim Crow**

5. **October 3: Black Life in the Segregated South**

6. **October 10: Between Black and White**

7. **October 17: Land and Leisure**
8. October 24: Migration

9. October 31: Urbanization

10. November 7: Race, Space and Recreation
Seiler, Cotten. “‘So That We as a Race Might Have Something Authentic to Travel By’: African American Automobility and Cold-War Liberalism.” American Quarterly 58, no. 4 (2006): 1091–1117.

11. November 14: The Global Arena

12. November 21: Environments
Shabazz, Rashad. “Masculinity and the Mic: Confronting the Uneven Geography of Hip-hop.” Gender, Place & Culture 0, no. 0 (0): 1–17.

November 27: No Class – (Friday Classes)

13. December 4: Carceral Spaces
14. December 11: Suburbanization