

SOC131F FOUR CENTURIES OF BLACK-WHITE RELATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

8/21/2021

Loïc Wacquant, SSB 478, Sociology Department

Office hours Tuesday 4-5pm and by appointment (loic@berkeley.edu)

The primordial task of a capable professor is to teach his students to recognize that there are uncomfortable facts, by which I mean facts that are unpleasant to the personal opinion of an individual. Indeed, there are facts that are extremely unpleasant for every opinion, including mine.

Max Weber, 1918

This course surveys and dissects the four “peculiar institutions” that have worked in succession to define and confine African Americans in US society and history from the colonial era to the present: chattel slavery, the Jim Crow regime of caste terrorism in the agrarian South, the urban ghetto in the Northern industrial metropolis, and the organizational nexus formed by the joining of the hyperghetto and the prison after the wave of race riots of the 1960s. We dissect each institution in turn, probing its genesis, structure, functions and contradictions, and how it operates to promote a certain definition of “blackness” and attach consequences to that definition. We draw the lessons of this long sociological journey for the current moment of racial struggle by considering two key policy planks: reparations for slavery and the reform of policing.

The course mixes lecture (first class of the week) and discussion (second class of the week). You are expected to read the assignments prior to the lecture for which they are listed. Your final grade will come from three components: 40% for a mid-term exam (half in class and half at home); 50% for the final exam; 10% for participation in discussion. The exams will combine true-false and multiple-choice questions as well as longer questions and a mini-essay (to take home for the mid-term). Each exam will include bonus questions to earn extra credit.

Required books

Berrey, Stephen A. *The Jim Crow routine: Everyday performances of race, civil rights, and segregation in Mississippi*. UNC Press Books, 2015.

Drake, Clair, and Horace Clayton. *Black metropolis: A study of Negro northern city*. (1945/1993). University of Chicago Press.

Forman, James Jr. 2017. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*.

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery: 1619-1877*. Hill and Wang, 2003

McMillen, Neil R. *Dark journey: Black Mississippians in the age of Jim Crow*. U. of Illinois Press, 1989.

Thompson, Janna. *Taking responsibility for the past: Reparation and historical injustice*. Cambridge: Polity, 2002.

Week 1 (26, 31 August): Introduction and conceptual apparatus

Epistemological obstacles; clarifying core categories: ethnicity, race, caste; social classification and stratification; the role of religion, science, the state/law in the validation and enforcement of “race”; main forms of racial domination: prejudice, discrimination, segregation, ghettoization, violence; slavery in global history; the uniqueness of Jim Crow as racial terrorism in world-historical perspective; the ghetto, the overlooked and Janus-faced institution; when prison and ghetto meet and mesh

Fredrickson, “Racism, History of” (2004).

Wagley, Charles. 1965. “On the Concept of Social Race in the Americas.”

Hochschild, Jennifer L. and Vesla. 2007. “Policies of Racial Classification and the Politics of Racial Inequality.”

For more:

Weber, Max. [1918-20] 1978. “Ethnic Groups.” Pp. 385-398 in *Economy and Society*.

Prewitt, Kenneth. “Racial classification in America: where do we go from here?” *Daedalus* 134, no. 1 (2005): 5-17.

Davis, F. James. *Who is black?: One nation’s definition*.

George M. Fredrickson, *Racism: A short history*.

Mara Loveman, *National Colors*.

Andreas Wimmer, *Ethnic Boundary Making*

Weeks 2-3-4 (7, 14, 21 September) SLAVERY

Slavery as violent domination; global and historical perspectives: a widespread, resilient, and multifunctional institution; the birth of American slavery: seeking bonded labor; from religion to race; distinctive characteristics of US slavery; the fight for abolition; abolition and its aftermaths

Week 2:

Patterson, “The Denial of Slavery in American Sociology” (2019)

Patterson, “Slavery as a Social Institution” (2004)

Patterson, “Slavery in Comparative Perspective” (2004)

Fields, Barbara Jeanne. “Slavery, race and ideology in the United States of America.” *New Left Review* 181, no. 1 (1990): 95-118.

Week 3:

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery: 1619-1877*. Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-92.

Week 4:

Kolchin, Peter. *American Slavery: 1619-1877*. Chapters 4-7, pp. 93-238.

For more:

Patterson, Orlando. *Slavery and social death: A comparative study, with a new preface*. Harvard University Press, 1982, 2018.

Williams, Heather Andrea. *American slavery: A very short introduction*.

Drescher and Engerman, *A Historical Guide to World Slavery*.

Davis, David Brion. *Inhuman bondage: The rise and fall of slavery in the New World*. Oxford University Press, 2006.

Weeks 5-6-7 (28 Sept, 5, 12 October) JIM CROW

A racial inter-regnum; the birth of Jim Crow as caste terrorism; sharecropping, debt peonage and convict leasing; extraction of deference and denial of reciprocity; judicial exclusion and political disfranchisement; suffusive violence as institutional glue; challenging Jim Crow

Week 5:

McMillen, Neil R. *Dark journey: Black Mississippians in the age of Jim Crow*. Chapters 1 and 4, 1-34, 111-154.

Berrey, Stephen A. *The Jim Crow routine: Everyday performances of race, civil rights, and segregation in Mississippi*. Chapter 1, pp. 19-60.

Week 6:

Berrey, *The Jim Crow Routine*, Introduction, chapters 2-3, pp. 61-137, chapter 5, pp. 177-217 (entire if you have the time)

Week 7:

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1901. "The Spawn of Slavery: The Convict-Lease System in the South." Reprinted in Gabbidon and Green (eds.), *Race, Crime and Justice: A Reader*.

McMillen, Neil R. *Dark journey*, chapters 2, 6, 7, pp. 35-71, 197-256.

Berrey, *The Jim Crow Routine*, chapters 4, pp. 138-177.

For more:

John Dollard, *Caste and Class in a Southern Town*.

Leon Litwack, *Trouble in Mind*.

Ritterhouse, Jennifer Lynn. *Growing up Jim Crow: How black and white Southern children learned race*.

Weeks 8-9 (19, 26 Oct) THE GHETTO

World War I, Fordism, Southern oppression, and the genesis of the Northern ghetto; building blocks and functions of the ghetto; Janus-faced institution: verticality/domination and horizontality-reciprocity; cultural production and collective identity; accumulation of capitals; determinants of the crash of the ghetto in the 1960s

Week 8:

Sennett, Richard. "Fear of Touching," in *Flesh and Stone* (1994).

Wacquant, “A Janus-Faced Institution of Ethnoracial Closure” (2010).

Drake, Clair, and Horace Clayton. *Black metropolis: A study of Negro northern city*. (1945/1993). Chapters 2 and 3, pp. 46-76, 6, pp. 99-129.

Week 9:

Drake, Clair, and Horace Clayton. *Black metropolis: A study of Negro northern city*. (1945/1993). Chapters 14, 379-398; 18, pp.495-525; 23, pp. 716-753.

WEEKS (2, 9 Nov) 10-11 THE HYPERGHETTO MEETS THE PRISON

From ghetto to hyperghetto; rise of the penal state as part of the neoliberal revolution; policing, the courts, probation, jail and prison, parole; how to explain hyperincarceration and black overincarceration; triple selectivity by class, race, and space; hyperincarceration of other dispossessed and dishonored populations around the world; social and political reverberations of hyperincarceration

Week 10:

Wacquant, “Deadly Symbiosis: When Prison and Ghetto Meet and Mesh” (2001).

Wacquant, “Race, Class, and Hyperincarceration in Revanchist America” (2010).

Wacquant, Loïc. 2010. “Prisoner Reentry as Myth and Ceremony.”

Muller, Christopher, and Alexander Roehrkasse. 2021. “Inequality in Incarceration in the Twenty-First Century.” (2020).

Week 11:

Forman, James Jr. 2010. “The Black Poor, Black Elites, and America’s Prisons.”

Forman, James Jr. 2017. *Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*, Introduction pp. 9-14, chapters 2, 3, 4, pp. 47-151, Epilogue pp. 217-229.

Thu 11 November, Veteran’s Day

For more:

Loïc Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor* (2009).

Bruce Western, *Punishment and Inequality* (2006).

Michael Tonry, *Punishing Race* (2010).

WEEKS (16, 23 Nov) 12-13 REPARATIONS, POLICING REFORM

Coming to terms of the past; the politics of memory and reparations; moral theories and slavery; material compensation and symbolic recognition; three case studies: US, France, Britain; the case for and against reparations; why not reparations for Jim Crow, ghettoization, overincarceration? The entangled histories of race and policing; policing under Jim Crow, policing today; differential use of force by class, race, space: what do we know? Black Life Matters, police unions, public opinion, and policing reform

Week 12:

Thompson, *Taking responsibility for the past: Reparation and historical injustice*. Cambridge: Polity, 2002, chapters TBA.

Torpey, John. *Making whole what has been smashed: On reparations politics*. Harvard University Press, 2006. Chapter 4, pp. 107-132.

Torpey, John, and Maxine Burkett. "The debate over African American reparations." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 6 (2010): 449-467.

Week 13:

Soss, Joe, and Vesla Weaver. "Police are our government: Politics, political science, and the policing of race–class subjugated communities." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 565-591.

Butler, Paul. 2017. "If you catch a case, act like you know," chapter 7, pp. 200-225 in *Chokehold: Policing Black Men*.

Lum, Cynthia. "Perspectives on Policing." *Annual Review of Criminology* (2021).

Davis, Angela J., ed. *Policing the Black man: Arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment*. Vintage, 2017, chapters TBA.

For more:

Lyons, David, and Michael K. Brown. *Redress for historical injustices in the United States: On reparations for slavery, Jim Crow, and their legacies* (2007).

Torpey, John. *Making whole what has been smashed: On reparations politics* (2006).

Araujo, Ana Lucia. *Reparations for slavery and the slave trade: a transnational and comparative history*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017.

Thu 25 November: Thanksgiving

WEEK (30 Nov, 2 Dec) 14 RECAPITULATION, GOING FORWARD

Emotions and elucidation; historicizing ethnoracial domination; the US case, a historical outlier; learning from other times and places; ethnoracial division and citizenship in the 21st century

Thu 2 December, last day of class

Mo 13-Fri 17 December, exams