# SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology

**Jump to Today** 



Soc590: Racial Capitalism

Spring 2021 | Remote & Synchronous | Wednesdays, 3:00 - 5:50

Professor Sarah Quinn

Email: slquinn@uw.edu (mailto:slquinn@uw.edu)

Office hours online at <u>calendly.com/slquinn</u> (http://calendly.com/slquinn)

# Class Description

This class will explore the relationship between racialization and capitalism through a survey of key texts in the field. The course begins with a review of introductory and foundational concepts. At the center of the course is a survey of interdisciplinary research on the foundations and development of racial capitalism, organized chronologically-- from colonialism and slavery, to reconstruction and the 20th century, and ending with neoliberalism. In the last week of class we will look at new work that extends this tradition forward in the field of sociology.

## Course Requirements

Class Discussion. This is a graduate seminar organized primarily around discussion. All course members should be prepared to regularly and actively participate. As with any seminar, you should show up with the readings in-hand (along with your reading notes), having completed and partially digested them, meaning that you should have already spent some time considering the (i) the strengths and weaknesses of each piece, including the extent to which the claims are well supported by the data, (ii) how the current reading relates to other course materials, and (iii) implications for future research. You should also have at least one or two questions prepared to share with the class. Especially at the start of the quarter I'm likely to have us all go around in a circle and share questions about the texts.

We will follow the "Step up/Step back" strategy for class discussion in this seminar: anyone who has already spoken is asked to wait for others who have not yet spoken to share before chiming in again. For this to work, we must all get used to finding a balance between speaking up and listening well. If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, or worry that you may take up too much space in the conversation, I am happy to meet with you and discuss strategies for participation.

"Fishbowl" Presentations: To broaden our knowledge within the constraints of a 10-week quarter, this class will use "fishbowl" style presentations. Class members will work in small groups to do a subset of the course readings, and then will record a conversation about those readings to be posted to the class website for others to watch. As part of the fishbowl presentation, the group will collectively produce a 1-2 page memo for the benefit of the class. This is akin to reading notes, and should include a brief (about 1 paragraph) summary of the argument and some combination of useful quotes, reflections and/or critical questions.

**Written Components:** In addition to the response memos, class members have a choice between the following options for a 15-20 page final paper. Please send an email informing me of your selection by the start of the third week of class.

- Research Proposal: For this option, you will draw from the course readings to motivate new research on a topic related to racial capitalism.
- Paper Revision Track: You have the option of undertaking a revision of an existing paper if the paper is related to racial capitalism and if you can apply materials from this course to that work.
- **New Paper Track:** For this option, you will write a substantive paper on a topic related to the course. This could be a pilot research project (where you gather and analyze some data) or a theory-style paper.

**Evaluation**. This class will follow the typical conventions for grading sociological graduate work. A final grade of an A/A- reflects successful participation at the level expected of a graduate student. That means you participate on a regular basis; engage in a consistently thoughtful manner with the nuances, details and difficult concepts in the readings; turn in all required work (some of it can be late, but not too much or too often). A grade of a B+ or B means that you do not complete assignments, actively participate, or that your engagement with the course materials was inconstant and/or superficial.

#### **Shared Documents**

- Racial capitalism <u>definitions</u> (<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r9c0Tm3OdyB2yZgTmoXkiahZoUvgaF2rYyEpcw6QnT8/edit?">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r9c0Tm3OdyB2yZgTmoXkiahZoUvgaF2rYyEpcw6QnT8/edit?</a>
   usp=sharing)
- Reading and Listening <u>lists</u> (<a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IG\_hQs3ZXnnaN0HQqRLej746DX3LgNyi2Y2w-wNVhfc/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IG\_hQs3ZXnnaN0HQqRLej746DX3LgNyi2Y2w-wNVhfc/edit?usp=sharing</a>)
- Sign up for the fishbowls <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IITJQWR02TXQajO5j5OGZKJzdGTBXIIKziPxLY5M7DA/edit?">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IITJQWR02TXQajO5j5OGZKJzdGTBXIIKziPxLY5M7DA/edit?</a>
   usp=sharing)

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: Course Introduction (March 31)**

In this class we will introduce ourselves, go over the syllabus, sign-up for fishbowl presentations, discuss techniques for reading and taking reading notes.

- Dawson, Michael C. 2016. "Hidden in plain sight: A note on legitimation crises and the racial order." Critical Historical Studies 3(1): 143-161.
- Fraser, Nancy. 2016. "<u>Expropriation and exploitation in racialized capitalism</u>: A reply to Michael Dawson." *Critical Historical Studies* 3.1 (2016): 163-178
- Leroy, Justin, and Destin Jenkins. 2021. "Introduction: The Old History of Capitalism" in *Histories of Racial Capitalism*, Columbia University Press.

#### Week 2: Specifying Foundational Concepts (April 7)

This week we'll have our first "fishbowl" sessions organized around three main themes: capitalism, racialization, and the Black radical tradition. Videos and memos should be posted to Canvas to the <u>Discussion</u> page by 5pm on Tuesday.

- · Group 1: Capitalism
  - Selections from Marx-Engels Reader (19pages)
    - Engels, Speech at the Graveside of Karl Marx
    - Marx, Speech at the Anniversary of the People's Paper
    - "Estranged Labour," Pp. 71 (From "We proceed from an actual economic fact . . . ") to page 73.
    - Marx and Friedrich Engels, 1888. Manifesto of the Communist Party, selected pages
  - <u>Capital, Vol I</u> (<a href="https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/index.htm">(https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/index.htm</a>)
    - Ch 1, Section IV: <u>The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret thereof</u> (https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm#S4)

- Section VIII on primitive accumulation (https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch26.htm)
- Group 2: Racialization
  - Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. Racial Formation in the United States: From the 1960s to the 1990s. Routledge. (Focus on Part II: Racial Formation)
- Group 3: Black Radical Tradition
  - Robinson, Cedric. J. 2000. Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition. Univ of North Carolina Press. (Focus on Part II: The Roots of Black Radicalism)

\*Link to recording of <u>class discussion</u> <u>(https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/hlt9V5O4x-jxFJLUtjt3moQseRz6rSlj6mQ37Rv0nP5AGxSimfJAHcNUNBmH4zPL.WrnEfsRB5j4q-5g1?startTime=1617837434000)</u> (second half only - I sadly forgot to record the first half)

## Week 3: Defining Racial Capitalism (April 14)

- Johnson, Walter. 2016. "To Remake the World: Slavery, Racial Capitalism, and Justice" Boston Review, 26. <u>Link</u>
   (<a href="http://bostonreview.net/forum/walter-johnson-to-remake-the-world">http://bostonreview.net/forum/walter-johnson-to-remake-the-world</a>).
- Smallwood, Stephanie. 2016. "What Slavery Tells Us about Marx" *Boston Review*, 26: 78-82. <u>Link \_(http://bostonreview.net/forum/remake-world-slavery-racial-capitalism-and-justice/stephanie-smallwood-what-slavery-tells-us)</u>.
- Mills, Charles W. 2003. "White Supremacy as Sociopolitical System: A Philosophical Perspective." Pp 38-48 in White Out: The
  Continuing Significance of Racism (Doane and Bonilla-Silva, eds). Psychology Press
- Melamed, Jodi. "Racial capitalism." Critical Ethnic Studies 1.1 (2015): 76-85. https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5749/jcritethnstud.1.1.0076
- Bhattacharyya, Gargi. 2018. Rethinking Racial Capitalism: Questions of Reproduction and Survival. Rowman & Littlefield. "Introduction:

  Ten Theses on Racial Capitalisms" and "Chapter 4: What Racial Capitalism is and What it Is Not"



(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--gim7W jQQ&t=546s)

\* Link to a recording of the <a href="mailto:seminar">seminar</a> (<a href="https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/cK0r0V-fpERvnm\_iiv2-eOsRSAzn25MZR\_pEZcekEXUNUifOS2sffVVR141dKMDP.hznEZumuxsa8hVZY?startTime=1618437720000)</a>.

#### Week 4: Colonialism (April 21)

- Lowe, Lisa. 2015. The Intimacies of Four Continents. Duke University Press. <u>Introduction</u> and Ch 4 ("<u>The Ruses of Liberty</u>")
- Coulthard, Glen Sean. 2014. Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition. U of Minnesota Press. Introduction
- Khan, Mishal. "The Indebted Among the "Free": Producing Indian Labor Through the Layers of Racial Capitalism." *Histories of Racial Capitalism*. Columbia University Press, 2021. 85-110.
- Lumba, Allan ES. 2021. "<u>Transpacific Migration, Racial Surplus, and Colonial Settlement.</u>" *Histories of Racial Capitalism* (Leroy and Jenkins eds) Columbia University Press. 111-134. doi:10.7312/jenk19074.8.
  - (https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/lib/washington/reader.action?docID=991651&ppg=230)
- Park, K-Sue. 2021. "Race, Innovation, and Financial Growth: The Example of Foreclosure." Histories of Racial Capitalism (Leroy and Jenkins eds) Columbia University Press. 27-52.
- Optional: Rodney, Walter. 2012 How Europe Underdeveloped Africa. "VI. Colonialism as a System for Underdeveloping Africa"
- \* Recording of the <u>discussion</u> <u>(https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/CTrTfdmSo2EuObuFqmhgiWuI-5miPujBbmZu4Ux-6hnKGqeiDWwNade9ElQEx\_Bw.I4UfYYNz9KHHsCvm?startTime=1619042124000)</u>.

## Week 5: Slavery (April 28)

Please do the anonymous mid-quarter course evaluation.

- Williams, Eric. 1944. Capitalism and Slavery. UNC Press Books. Ch. 1,3, 5, 7, 13 (available as ebook through the library)
- Fields, Barbara J. 1990. "Slavery, Race and Ideology in the United States of America." New Left Review 181.1: 95-118. (<a href="https://newleftreview.org/issues/i181/articles/barbara-jeanne-fields-slavery-race-and-ideology-in-the-united-states-of-america">https://newleftreview.org/issues/i181/articles/barbara-jeanne-fields-slavery-race-and-ideology-in-the-united-states-of-america</a>)
- Johnson, Walter. 2000. "The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s." Journal of American
   History, 87(1): 13–38. <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/2567914">https://www.jstor.org/stable/2567914</a>
   (<a href="http://The%20Slave%20Trader,%20the%20White%20Slave,%20and%20the%20Politics%20of%20Racial%20Determination%20in%20the%201850s">https://www.jstor.org/stable/2567914</a>
   (<a href="http://The%20Slave%20Trader,%20the%20White%20Slave,%20and%20the%20Politics%20of%20Racial%20Determination%20in%20the%201850s">https://www.jstor.org/stable/2567914</a>
   (<a href="https://the%20Slave%20Trader,%20the%20White%20Slave,%20and%20the%20Politics%20of%20Racial%20Determination%20in%20the%201850s">https://the%20Slave,%20the%20White%20Slave,%20and%20the%20Politics%20of%20Racial%20Determination%20in%20the%201850s</a>)
- Morgan, Jennifer L. 2011. Laboring Women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery. University of Pennsylvania Press. "Chapter
   "Some Could Suckle over Their Shoulder": Male Travelers, Female Bodies, and the Gendering of Racial Ideology"

- Recording of class <u>discussion</u> <u>(https://uw.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ca024f4c-2549-4ff8-80bf-ad1a01141926)</u> (I missed the first half hour with the great comments from everyone).

#### Week 6: Reconstruction (May 5)

• Du Bois, William Edward Burghardt. 1935. *Black Reconstruction in America: Toward a History of the Part which Black Folk played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880.* This is a long book. Read as much as you can and skim the rest, but pay special attention to Chapters 1-4, 6, and 14-17 (available as ebook through the library).

#### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- mid-quarter evals
- By midnight on Tuesday, please select a quote that you like from the text, and list it <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A1q4T4mLO1g8cjgt4ft-eV3HgaoFyNXmio7IFPYqDJE/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A1q4T4mLO1g8cjgt4ft-eV3HgaoFyNXmio7IFPYqDJE/edit?usp=sharing</a>), along with just 1 or 2 sentences about why you selected it.
- Link to <u>class discussion</u>. <u>(https://washington.zoom.us/rec/share/ZdnbZfGB3\_Anjt6\_zQ6n2DaF-4Ht2O4ZtljhjytZy9FVWhAWpjRZ1rxG44XRVBgm.mtwVcnd\_8QBmiXi0?startTime=1620252101000)</u>

### Week 7: (May 12) - CANCELED

### Week 8 (May 19) - 20th Century

- Peter James Hudson; The National City Bank of New York and Haiti, 1909 1922. Radical History Review 1 January 2013; 2013 (115): 91–114. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-1724733">https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-1724733</a>
   (https://doi.org/10.1215/01636545-1724733)
- Freund, David MP. Colored property: State policy and white racial politics in suburban America. University of Chicago Press, 2010. Introduction
- Fields D, Raymond EL. Racialized geographies of housing financialization. *Progress in Human Geography*. April 2021. doi:10.1177/03091325211009299 (https://doi-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/10.1177/03091325211009299)

- Manning Marable, How Capitalism Underdeveloped Black America, "Chapter 5: Black Capitalism: Entrepreneurs, Consumers, and The Historical Evolution of the Black Market"
- Regalado, Pedro A. "They Speak Our Language ... Business': Latinx Businesspeople and the Pursuit of Wealth in New York City."
   Histories of Racial Capitalism, edited by DESTIN JENKINS and JUSTIN LEROY, Columbia University Press, New York, 2021, pp. 231–250. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/jenk19074.13.

#### For more on racism and mortgage finance, see:

- For a quick intro: <a href="https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/">https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/</a> (<a href="https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/">https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/</a> (<a href="https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/">https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/</a> (<a href="https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/">https://contexts.org/articles/disrupting-the-racial-wealth-gap/</a>)
- Annual review articles on <a href="https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-soc-060116-053420?">https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-soc-060116-053420?</a>
   <a href="mailto:casa\_token=XwZHAjSGeuwAAAA:OF2mHnmCTbHuLsmT2TYCVjDjybkHpbDgPbgrJknmEJA76s59Z2cvue-5a\_VVGtvtA\_tTeFMI7I0">https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.33.040406.131740</a>) (Pager & Shepard) provide overviews.
- Massey & Denton: American Apartheid: <a href="https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674018211">https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674018211</a>)
   (https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674018211)
- Oliver & Shapiro: Black Wealth/White Wealth: <a href="https://www.routledge.com/Black-Wealth--White-Wealth-A-New-Perspective-on-Racial-Inequality/Oliver-Shapiro/p/book/9780415951678">https://www.routledge.com/Black-Wealth--White-Wealth-A-New-Perspective-on-Racial-Inequality/Oliver-Shapiro/p/book/9780415951678</a>
   (<a href="https://www.routledge.com/Black-Wealth--White-Wealth-A-New-Perspective-on-Racial-Inequality/Oliver-Shapiro/p/book/9780415951678">https://www.routledge.com/Black-Wealth--White-Wealth-A-New-Perspective-on-Racial-Inequality/Oliver-Shapiro/p/book/9780415951678</a>

### Week 9: (May 26) Neoliberalism

- Hall, Stuart. 2011. The Neo-liberal Revolution. Cultural Studies, 25(6): 705-728. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2011.619886">https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2011.619886</a>
   (<a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2011.619886">https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2011.619886</a>
- Dawson, Michael C. and Megan Ming Francis. 2016. "Black Politics and the Neoliberal Racial Order." Public Culture 28 (1/78): 23–62
- Fourcade, Marion, and Kieran Healy. "Classification situations: Life-chances in the neoliberal era." *Accounting, Organizations and Society* 38.8 (2013): 559-572.
- Clarno, Andy. 2017. Neoliberal Apartheid: Palestine/Israel and South Africa after 1994. University of Chicago Press
  - o Chapter 3
  - From the conclusion, pages 201-206

- OPTIONAL: Read one or both of these
  - Baradaran, Mehrsa. 2017. The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap. Harvard University Press. <u>"The Decoy of Black Capitalism"</u>
  - Clarno, Chapter 5
- Of possible interest: "Are we entering a new political era (https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/05/31/are-we-entering-a-new-political-era)?"

### Week 10: New Work in Sociology (June 2)

- Go, Julian. 2020. "Three Tensions in the Theory of Racial Capitalism." Sociological Theory.
- Pirtle, Whitney N. 2020. "Racial Capitalism: A Fundamental Cause of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Inequities in the United States." *Health Education & Behavior* 47.4: 504-508.
- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2020. "Where Platform Capitalism and Racial Capitalism Meet: The Sociology of Race and Racism in the Digital Society." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 6.4: 441-449.
- Hirschman, Daniel and Laura Garbes, 2019. "Toward an Economic Sociology of Race," Socio-Economic Review
- Seamster, Louise, and Raphaël Charron-Chénier. 2017. "Predatory Inclusion and Education Debt: Rethinking the Racial Wealth Gap."
   Social Currents 4.3: 199-207.
- Robinson III, J. N. 2021 "

<u>Surviving Capitalism: Affordability as a Racial "Wage" in Contemporary Housing Markets</u> (https://scholar.google.com/scholar? oi=bibs&cluster=14371038109056087829&btnl=1&hl=en)

Social Problems

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Mar 31, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042032&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Apr 7, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042033&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm
Wed Apr 14, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042034&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm
Wed Apr 21, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042035&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm
Wed Apr 28, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042036&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm
Wed Jun 2, 2021	SOC 590 B Sp 21: Special Topics In Sociology (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar? event_id=2042037&include_contexts=course_1450987)	3pm to 5pm