

WWS 527f: Race, Housing, and Public Policy

Fall 2009 – Draft

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Thursdays, 7-10 PM
Robertson 015

Course Overview

This course is designed for students interested in exploring the intersection of race, housing, and public policy. After a brief examination of the topic of race, and racial ideology, the course will address racialized interaction in several different U.S. cities and suburbs from the point of first housing conflicts in the 1920s, until the present day. In each of several time periods, from World War I until the contemporary period, we will consider the challenges of balancing notions of neighborhood control and property rights with the ideal of racial housing integration. With a focus on evaluating the underpinnings of important aspect of property law that influence U.S. housing policy, at several points in the course, we will weigh housing policy against the existing legal remedies, paying special attention to the impact of legal measures to protect housing rights.

The instructor for this course is Jeannine Bell, Professor of Law at Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. With a PhD in Political Science as well as a law degree, Bell has written extensively on fair housing, hate crime and criminal justice issues. Her first book, [*Policing Hatred: Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, and Hate Crime*](#) (2002) is an ethnography of a police hate crime unit. Other works of Bell's include, *Police and Policing Law* (2006) and *Gaining Access to Research Sites: a Practical and Theoretical Guide for Qualitative Researchers* (with Martha Feldman and Michele Berger). She is currently working on a book, *Hate Thy Neighbor*, which explores hate crimes that occur in neighborhoods undergoing racial integration.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 40%

The course will be conducted as a seminar where we will all learn from and teach each other. Class attendance, and therefore preparedness, constitutes a primary course requirement. You are required to do the following:

- 1) Attend each class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Several absences may influence your eligibility to submit the final paper.
- 2) Before each class, write one substantive discussion question raised by the assigned reading that you think will contribute to class discussion. Submit a copy of your question to me via email the day before class, and bring a copy of your

question to class. One-page response papers will be due, several times during the semester.

Class participation, response papers and written discussion questions count for 40% of the course grade.

Research Paper: 50%

A substantial portion of the work for the class focuses on a final written project. This paper should be between 15 and 20 pages. Your paper should address any topic in the area of race housing and public policy. You may choose an offshoot of an issue we examined in class or an entirely new issue. I will set up a series of deadlines that will allow you to discuss the topic with me beforehand. In any case you should not begin writing until there is agreement on a scope of work for the project.

Oral presentation: 10%

You are to present the results of your research to the class in one of the last few weeks of the semester. Each student is allotted 10-15 minutes. The presentation should describe the question that you researched as well as your conclusions. You will be graded on the presentation's organization, its substantive content, and your ability to answer questions about your research. The format of the presentation is unrestricted. For example, in previous semesters students have supplemented an oral presentation with brief video segments.

Readings

Readings will be on reserve and available electronically *on Blackboard*. Readings may be added during the term to provide additional context.

Note: It would be helpful if students were prepared to discuss materials assigned for the first class (although no reflection piece is required for the first or last class).

Week One. Thursday, September 17: Introduction to race and racial interaction in the U.S.

Modern day scholars who conduct research on race have long argued that it is a social, rather than purely biological, phenomenon. We begin the course by examining issues of racial ideology, racial formation. Also discussed, with a special focus on race and public policy, are the social construction of race and how racial meaning is created in the context of housing.

George Lipsitz, The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit From Identity Politics, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1998.
(selections)

Jane Hill, "Chapter 1, the Persistence of White Racism," The Everyday Language of White Racism, Wiley Blackwell (2008).

Week Two (September 24): Beginning of Housing Segregation

This section undertakes a brief historical overview of the first attempts of racial minorities to move out of racial enclaves and the ensuing conflicts that such moves cause. These early 20th century struggles over housing set the stage for legal and social upheaval and created the basis for major housing legislation.

Steven Grant Meyer, Chapter 2: “Great Migration, Great Conflagration,” in as long as they don’t move next door (Rowman Littlefield Publishers Inc., 2000).

Thomas J. Sugrue, The Origins of the Urban Crisis (Princeton University Press, 1996). (selections)

Kevin Boyle, Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age, (Henry Holt, 2004).

Week Three (October 1): Total Exclusion, North and South

In both the North and the South, African American and other minorities were driven out of neighborhoods by legal and extra-legal means. This week examines the Northern struggles for housing along side the creation of “sundown towns,” towns almost entirely devoid of minorities after the sun went down.

Thomas J. Sugrue, Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North (Random House, 2008). (selections)

James W. Loewen, Chapters 1, 3, and 4 in Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism (New Press, 2005).

Week Four (October 8): The Creation of the Ghetto

Exclusion, by both legal and extra legal means can lead to neighborhoods with a high concentration of minorities. This week’s readings attempt to examine and problematize the creation of racialized urban housing ghettos by looking at them over different time periods in different cities.

Wendell Prichett, Brownsville, Brooklyn: Blacks Jews and the Changing Face of the Ghetto (University of Chicago Press, 2004). (selections)

D.S. Massey, “America’s Apartheid and the Urban Underclass: The Social Service Review Lecture,” The Social Service Review, Volume 68, Issue 4 471-487.

Week Four (October 8): The Creation of the Ghetto (cont'd)

Mary Patillo, Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City (University of Chicago Press, 2007). (selections)

Additional:

Arnold R. Hirsch, Making the Second Ghetto: Race & Housing in Chicago, 1940-1960 (Cambridge University Press, 1983).

Week Five (October 15): Legal Remedies, The Fair Housing Act and the Supreme Court

After 1968, acts of discrimination in housing were legally prohibited. This week's readings examine laws and court decisions that attempted to level the racial playing field with respect to housing.

The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, Pub. L. No. 90-284, 82 Stat. 73 (codified as amended at 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601-3619).

Jeannine Bell, "The Fair Housing Act and Extralegal Terror," 41 INDIANA LAW REVIEW 537 (2008).

Week Six (October 22): White Flight

Once minorities could no longer be legally prohibited from occupying houses and apartments in white neighborhoods, many neighborhoods underwent significant racial change, seemingly overnight. This week's readings examine the phenomenon of white flight, and also consider a few communities that resisted this phenomenon.

Amanda Seligman, *Block by Block: Neighborhoods and Public Policy on Chicago's West Side* (University of Chicago Press, 2005). (selections).

Phyliss Palmer, Living as Equals: How Three White Communities Struggled to make interracial connections during the civil rights era, (Vanderbilt University Press, 2008). (selections)

Maria Krysan, "Whites Who Say They'd Flee: Who Are They and Why Would They Leave?" *Demography* 39(4): 675-696 (2002).

Week Seven (October 29): Fair Housing and the suburbs

Many urban dwellers fleeing urban centers sought refuge in the suburbs. The public policy behind the creation of these enclaves is examined in this week's readings.

David Freund, Colored Property: State Policy and White Racial Politics in Suburban America (University of Chicago Press, 2007). (selections)

Charles M. Lamb, Chapter 1, "Separate Worlds, Separate Lives," in HOUSING SEGREGATION IN SUBURBAN AMERICA SINCE 1960: PRESIDENTIAL AND JUDICIAL POLITICS (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

November 5. FALL RECESS

Week Eight (November 12): Segregation by Degrees

With neighborhoods in urban centers occupied largely by racial and ethnic minorities, and many of the suburbs remaining largely white enclaves, housing in the U.S. has become increasingly racially segregated. This week explores the nature and extent of U.S. housing segregation and some of the social consequences of this separateness.

Doug Massey & Nancy Denton, American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of An American Underclass, Harvard University Press, 1998.(selections)

Tyrone Forman & Maria Krysan, "Racial Segregation in Metropolitan Chicago Housing," Institute of Government and Public Affairs, June 2008.

Lewis Mumford Center, Ethnic Diversity Grows, Neighborhood Integration Lags Behind. Albany, NY: Lewis Mumford Center, 2001.

Week Nine (November 19): Move-in Violence

Move-in violence involves the crimes committed against minorities who move to white neighborhoods. The readings for this week examine the parameters of, and possible explanations for move-in violence.

R. Grattet, "The Urban Ecology of Bias Crime: A Study of Disorganized and Defended Neighborhoods," Social Problems 56: 132-150 (2009).

J. Crump, "Producing and Enforcing the Geography of Hate: Race, Housing Segregation and Housing-Related Hate Crimes in the U.S." in *Spaces of Hate: Geographies of Discrimination and Intolerance in the U.S.* (2004).

A.M. Lynch, Hating the Neighbors: The Role of Hate Crime in the Perpetuation of Black Residential Segregation, *International Journal of Conflict and Violence* 2: pp. 6-27 (2008).

November 26. THANKSGIVING

Week Ten (December 3): Cases studies examining housing relations

How do people in neighborhoods that are racially mixed interact? These three recent case studies involve detailed examinations of neighborhood relationships in cities in two different areas of the country with different racial histories. Also explored are state and Federal programs have placed minority residents in white neighborhoods. In such cases, the residents may be either welcomed or resisted for reasons having to do with not only race, but also social class.

Maria Kefalas, Working Class Heroes, Protecting Home Community, and Nation in a Chicago Neighborhood Berkeley, (University of California Press ,2003). (selections)

Charles, Camille Zubrinsky, Won't You Be My Neighbor? Race, Class, and Residence in Los Angeles. (Russell Sage Foundation, 2006). (selections)

Leonard Rabinowitz and James Rosenbaum, Crossing the Class and Color Lines, From Public Housing to White Suburbia, (Chicago, 2000.) (selections)

Week Eleven (December 10): Solutions?

In this final week we evaluate whether racial integration in housing is possible in the United States in the foreseeable future. In examining potential solutions to the seemingly intractable problem that scholars have presented, we will try to assess the prospects for and methods that could create of stably integrated neighborhoods.

Florence Roisman, "Is Integration Possible: Of Course . . ." in CHALLENGES TO EQUALITY: POVERTY AND RACE IN AMERICA 16 (Chester Hartman ed. 2001); INTER-RACIAL AMERICA.

E. I. Gould, Sharing America's Neighborhoods, The Prospects for Stable Racial Integration, (Harvard U Press, 2000). (selections)

Sheryll Cashin, The Failures of Integration: How Race and Class are undermining the American Dream (Public Affairs, 2005). (selections)

Week Twelve (December 17): In-Class Presentations