

AAS 241 | GEO 252: **Economies of Race**

Departments of African American Studies and Geography

Instructor: Dr. Jovan Scott Lewis

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Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30-11 AM and 12:30-2 PM, or by appointment | 672 Barrows Hall

This course examines the economy as a domain of social analysis for understanding the black experience. Throughout the course we will examine what forms economic institutions and practices take across the black Diaspora. We will examine the central place of race within capitalist economies, largely overlooked by mainstream economic analyses and unpack its implications for equality in wider capitalist markets, state systems, and policy initiatives. Through historical and ethnographic accounts we will explore how people across the Diaspora cope with crises and inequality, both individually and collectively, and how historical narratives are brought to bear on those methods, and on notions of the future. Students will become familiar with fundamental aspects of economic anthropology and with core concepts examined in the field, such as capitalism, labor, neoliberalism, debt, commodities, and markets. However, we will extend beyond these standard frames by foregrounding the black experience.

Course Assessment

Participation & Attendance – 25%

Due to the structure of the course, participation is key for the course to be productive and successful. Every three (3) absences without prior notification will result in a 5% decrease in the participation grade.

Weekly Presentations– 40%

Each week, students will provide a 10-15 minute presentation on how their own research/work intersects (or doesn't) with the themes that arise out of the assigned text for the week. There will be a discussion which will then interrogate the limits of those themes as demonstrated by the presentations, as well as further reflection on how each student's work can be further/differently considered through these frameworks. Students should email a quick description of their weekly topic by the end of day, Wednesday.

Final Paper/Presentation-35%

For the final class session (4.28), each student will have prepared a 15 minute paper presentation on a theme that provides a collective consideration of the themes from the preceding weekly papers/presentations.

Class and Reading Schedule (subject to change)

- 1.21 Course overview
- 1.28 Baptist, E. (2014). *The half has never been told : Slavery and the making of American capitalism*. New York, NY : Basic Books.
- 2.11 Weheliye, A. (2014). *Habeas viscus : Racializing assemblages, biopolitics, and Black feminist theories of the human.* `
- 2.18 Scott, D. (2004). *Conscripts of Modernity : The Tragedy of Colonial Enlightenment*. Durham: Duke University Press,.
- 2.25 Joseph, M. (2002). *Against the romance of community*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. [electronic resource]
- 3.03 Spence, L. K. (2015). *Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics*. Puncture Books
- 3.10 Soss, J., Fording, Richard C., & Schram, Sanford. (2011). *Disciplining the poor : Neoliberal paternalism and the persistent power of race*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 3.17 Povinelli, E. (2011). *Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism*. By Durham, NC: Duke University.
- 3.24 Spring Break
- 3.31 AAG Annual Conference
- 4.07 Joseph, M. (2014). *Debt to society : Accounting for life under capitalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press
- 4.14 Cox, A.M. 2015. *Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship*. Durham : Duke University Press
- 4.21 Ralph, L. (2014). *Renegade Dreams : Living through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. University of Chicago Press.
- 4.28 Adams, V. (2013). *Markets of sorrow, labors of faith : New Orleans in the wake of Katrina*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.