

## GEOGRAPHIES OF RACE

Department of Geography, Spring 2022  
Professor: Dr. Willie J. Wright  
Tuesday: 8:30a-10:25a | 108 Matherly Hall  
Thursday 9:35a-10:25a | 104 Leigh Hall

**Contact Information**  
[wrightw@ufl.edu](mailto:wrightw@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours**  
Monday 10a-12noon

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Geography is a colonial discipline. As such, the earliest works on race were reports included plans to control, extract resources from, and convert non-European populations. In this course, we will engage research on race and ethnicity produced in the field of geography. The class will begin with the field's imperial roots and progress, thematically, to more contemporary approaches to the study of racialized communities. With this course, students will become aware of various topics and approaches to studying race, racism and resistance in the field of geography. Students will come to understand race and racism as not just a "social construct," but also as a spatial practice. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to various ways that conflicts over space have been used to enable inequalities in the United States but also how marginalized populations have struggled for more equitable uses of space.

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### REQUIRED TEXTS

All required articles, texts, and chapters will be made available on the course's Canvas site.

### COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- **Reading, Attendance, and Participation**

Though, at times I will lead class discussion, this is **NOT** a lecture-based course. As an instructor, I believe in communal learning and the insights that are developed when we think collectively. Therefore, portions of the class will be led and developed through student participation and facilitation. In order for this approach to work, and for you to be successful in this class, reading assigned materials **AND** class participation are essential. Each day you should come to class prepared to ask questions, make comments, and share concerns about the assigned readings.

- **Office Hours - 10%**

Each student must attend office hours in the second week of class. The purpose of this requirement is so that I may familiarize myself you/your interest and for you to get into a habit of making productive use of office hours. Mask are required during office hours.

- **Reading Responses - 30%**

Students must submit a 750-1000 word reading response for each unit. Reading responses are due by 10pm the Monday before Tuesday's class. Responses are to be submitted online via Canvas. Your responses must summarize the readings in the following fashion: Provide an introductory paragraph detailing the purpose/argument of the paper. Discuss **THREE** important aspects of the reading (e.g., concepts, methods, arguments). Share **TWO** aspects of the essay you do not understand. Write **ONE** question you would ask the author.

▪ **Film Response (1) - 15%**

We will watch a number of films this semester. More than mere “breaks” from reading, films are designed to supplement our readings. For each film, you are required to write a 750-word response. Each response must address the plot, the main idea/problem, and how it relates to our course reading.

▪ **Class Facilitation (1) - 15%**

Each student will facilitate one (1) reading throughout the semester. Discussion leaders are responsible for introducing the reading, providing background on the author, and offering guiding questions to facilitate discussion. Being discussion leader does not mean you will dominate the conversation or that you are solely responsible for the day’s conversation. However, as discussion leader, you are the professor for the day. Consider what you would like for us to learn from your chosen reading.

▪ **Midterm Exam - 15%**

Midterms will be in essay format. Students will provide in-depth responses to questions based on class readings, discussions, and films. Students must have a blue book in order to take the exam.

▪ **Final Exam - 15%**

Final exams will be in essay format. Students will provide in-depth responses to questions based on class readings, discussions, and films. Students must have a blue book in order to take the exam.

**Name & Pronoun Preference**

I will honor your request to address you by name or pronoun of your choice. Advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make the necessary changes to my records.

**University Policies & Resources**

- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Registration Dates](#)
- [Student Services](#)
- [Counseling Services](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

**Makeup Policy**

Late work and make-up exams will be considered **ONLY** with written documentation of an illness (e.g., doctor’s note) or a family emergency (e.g., note from a university counselor).

<b>Grading Scale</b>			
A	93 - 100	C+	77 - 79
A-	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89	D+	67 - 69
B	83 - 86	D	63 - 66
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
C	73 - 76	F	0 - 59

**Email Communication**

An email to a university professor is professional correspondence. As such, it should be written with an appropriate salutation/professional title, a message body that contains all relevant information, and a signature that includes your first and last name. An email should not be written as if it is casual correspondence (e.g., no greeting, poorly spelled, and proper nouns uncapitalized).

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction, Syllabus, and Survey**

01/06: Introduction, Syllabus, and Survey

**Week 2: Geography and Empire**

01/11: Kobayashi: "The Dialectic of Race and the Discipline of Geography"

01/13: Kirsch: "US Colonial Science, Geopolitics, and the (re)mapping of the Philippines"

**Week 3: Early Works on Race**

01/18: Rose: "Metropolitan Miami's Changing Negro Population"

01/20: Wilson: "Black Housing Opportunities in Birmingham, Alabama"

**Week 4: Week: Geography So White**

01/25: Pulido: "Reflections on a White Discipline"

01/27: Bonnett: "How the British Working Class Became White: The Symbolic (Re)formation of Racialized Capitalism"

**Week 5: Carceral Geographies**

Preface: [\*Don't Reform Prisons, Abolish Them\*](#)

02/01: Burton: "Fieldnotes on the Gendered Labor of Prison Visitation"

02/03: Burton: "Captivity, Kinship, and Black Masculine Care Work under Domestic Warfare"

**Week 6: Queering Spaces**

02/08: Mallory: "Anti-Blackness within the Assemblages of Undetectability"

02/10: Abelson: "'You Aren't From Around Here': Race, Masculinity, and Rural Transgender Men"

**Week 7: Critical Toponyms**

Preface: [\*Real Silent Sam Coalition\*](#)

02/15: Alderman: "Creating a New Geography of Memory in the South: (Re)naming of Streets in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr."

02/17: Moulton: "Black monument matters: Place-based commemoration and abolitionist memory work"

**Week 8: Midterm Review/Exam**

02/22: Midterm Review

**Week 8/9: NO CLASS (Attending Geography Conference)**

02/25 - 03/01

**Week 9:**

03/03: Midterm Exam

**Week 10: Race & Waste**

Preface: [\*Community-Based Research\*](#)

03/08: Vasudevan: "An Intimate Inventory of Race and Waste"

03/10: Wright: "As Above, So Below: Anti-Black Violence as Environmental Racism"

**Week 11: (Short) Film Screenings**

03/15: Screening and Discussion

## GEOGRAPHIES OF RACE & ETHNICITY - 2022

03/17: Screening and Discussion

### **Week 12: NO CLASS (Dr. Wright Travel)**

03/22 - No Class

03/24 - (Film Response Due via Canvas)

### **Week 13: Indigenous Geographies**

03/29: Daigle: "Awawanenitakik: The spatial politics of recognition and relational geographies of Indigenous self-determination"

03/31: Curley: "*T'áá hwó ají t'éego* and the Moral Economy of Navajo Coal Workers"

### **Week 14: Other Geographies**

04/05: Oswin: "An Other Geography"

04/07: Roy: "The Shadow of Her Wings"

### **Week: 15 Latinx Geographies**

04/12: Wright: "Necropolitics, Narcopolitics, and Femicide"

04/14: Ybarra: "We Are Not Ignorant"

### **Week 16: Black Geographies**

04/21: McKittrick: "Plantations, Prisons, and a Black Sense of Place"

- **FINAL EXAM** -

- TBA