Anti-Racism in Comparative-Historical Perspective
John Torpey
Sociology 85913
History 72300

This course addresses the changing meaning of “antiracism” in the United States from the founding of the United States to the present day. We will explore the varying meanings of the idea of antiracism in the context of the times in which they were set. Readings will range from commentary on the American Constitution to the arguments of today’s “neo-universalists” and may include the writings of George Fredrickson, Edmund Morgan, David Waldstreicher, Nikole Hannah-Jones, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. DuBois, Ida Wells, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, the Report of the Kerner Commission, Bob Blauner, Kimberle’ Crenshaw, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Ibram X. Kendi, Robin DiAngelo, Adolph Reed, Toure’ Reed, Randall Kennedy, Rogers Brubaker, John McWhorter, Ian Haney-Lopez, Wesley Yang, Ruy Teixeira, and John Halpin. Class discussion will be the heart of the course; students will be expected to do all the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History*
David Waldstreicher, *Slavery’s Constitution*
Nikole Hannah-Jones, *The 1619 Project*, selections (from the original Times Magazine issue)
Carlos Lozada, “*The 1619 Project Started As History. Now It’s Also a Political Program*”
World Socialist Web Site, historians’ responses to the 1619 Project
Sean Wilentz, “*The 1619 Project and Living in Truth*”
Leslie M. Harris, “*I Helped Fact-Check the 1619 Project. The Times Ignored Me*”
Frederick Douglass, *Life and Times* or David Blight, *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*
James Oakes, *The Crooked Path to Abolition: Abraham Lincoln and the Antislavery Constitution*
W. E. B. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk* and other writings, selections
Ida B. Wells, *The Light of Truth: Writings of an Anti-Lynching Crusader*, selections
James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*
Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” or “Where Do We Go From Here?“ *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, selections
Report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (aka Kerner Commission)
Herbert Aptheker, *Anti-Racism in United States History*
Bob Blauner, *Still the Big News: Racial Oppression in America*
*Tulsa Race Riot: A Report by the Oklahoma Commission to Study the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921* (2001)
George Fredrickson, *Black Liberation*
Kimberle’ Crenshaw, “*Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex*”
Ta-Nehisi Coates, “*The Case for Reparations*”
Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Anti-Racist*
Robin DiAngelo, *Nice Racism*
Kwame Anthony Appiah, “*Rethinking Identity*”
Thandeka, “Why Anti-Racism Will Fail”  
Adolph Reed, Jr., “The Limits of Anti-Racism”  
Touré Reed, Toward Freedom: The Case Against Race Reductionism  
New Labor Forum, “Reckoning with Race and Class on the Road to Social Democracy”  
Randall Kennedy, “How Racist Are Universities, Really?”  
Rogers Brubaker, “The Danger of Race Reductionism”  
John McWhorter, Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America  
Ross Douthat, “The Second Defeat of Bernie Sanders”  
Ian Haney-Lopez, “Can Democracy Survive Racism as a Strategy?”  
Wesley Yang, “Welcome to Year Zero”  
Caroline Fourest, The Offended Generation  
Wolfgang Thierse, “How Much Identity Can Society Stand?”  
Ruy Teixeira, “The Cultural Left Puts a Ceiling on Democratic Support”  
John Halpin, “The Rise of the Neo-Universalists”  
Will Shetterly, “Two Kinds of Anti-Racists: Identitarians and Universalists”  
Will Shetterly, “How ‘Racist’ Became Meaningless: On Strong, Moderate and Weak Anti-Racism”  
Matthew Yglesias, “How to Be an Anti-Racist”  

Recommended:  
Paul Polgar, Standard Bearers of Equality  
Kate Masur, Until Justice Be Done