

JIM CROW'S LEGACY: CRIMINALIZATION OF AMERICAN BLACKS SINCE THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT DAY

Coordinator: Lenore Cooney

Jim Crow's descendants are alive and well, having adopted various guises to paint Black Americans as a criminal racial caste. Scholarship points to "a tightly networked system of laws, policies, customs and institutions ... to ensure the subordinate status of a group defined largely by race." (M. Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*) The course traces the process from the leased convict industry of the 19TH and 20th centuries, to disparities in police protection, to the exploitative Black criminal image in the Republican Southern Strategy, to today's New Jim Crow, mass incarceration of Black men. Events frequently overlap with the memories and experience of IRP members, who have their own opinions. We consider what the country can do to move beyond race as a major political factor.

Readings and other Required Materials:

Primary text is Alexander, Michelle, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* {The New Press. US \$19.95}

Other readings – excerpts from books and journal, magazine and newspaper articles are listed below in the syllabus outline.

I estimate the course pack pages to total approximately 350 pages. Based upon my experience in other courses, I believe the cost would be \$20 or less.

Lenore Cooney has followed the subject of American racism from early work with Quaker activists in Philadelphia, anti-poverty groups and inner-city teaching. Her career was spent in health communications.

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Week 1

The power of Jim Crow in creating and maintaining racial caste in the US 50 years after passage of the Civil Rights Act.

Reading Alexander, Michelle, *The New Jim Crow* pp 1-58

Week 2

Economic Roots of Jim Crow following the Civil War

Reading: Blackmon, Douglas, A. *Slavery By Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II* pp. 1-58

Week 3

Social and Political Origins of Jim Crow in the post-Reconstruction period

Readings: Woodward, C. Vann, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*. pp 11-65

Week 4

Criminalization as a Primary tool of Control over Black Life in the Jim Crow period

Readings: Muhammad, Khalil Gibran, "Racial Criminalization and the Dawn of Jim Crow." *The Condemnation of Blackness*

Week 5

Jim Crow Moves North: The Great Migration and the criminalization of a new urban population

READINGS: Muhammad, Khalil Gibran, "Policing Racism: Jim Crow Justice in the Urban North." *The Condemnation of Blackness*
Farber, Naomi, "Charles S. Johnson's *The Negro in Chicago*." *The American Sociologist*

Week 6

World War II Black migration and the pathologization of Black Americans in northern cities

Readings: Myrdal, Gunnar. An American Dilemma (pages TBD)

Kennedy, Randall. Race, Crime and the Law. (pages TBD)

Week 7

Perceptions of black Criminality in the wake of the Brown Decision: law and order in a time of urban unrest

Readings: "The Underlying Causes of Rising Incarceration Crime, Politics and Social Change." The Growth of Incarceration in the U.S. National Academies Press

Barlow, Melissa Hickman, "Race and the Problem of Crime in Time and Newsweek Cover Stories, 1946-1995. Social Justice. Vol. 25, No 2

National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders (The Kerner Report) 1967

Week 8

Southern Strategy and the exploitation of the image of Black criminality in creating the politics of racial resentment

Readings: Herbert, Bob. "Impossible, Ridiculous, Repugnant." The New York Times. Oct. 6, 2005

Other TBD

Week 9

War on Drugs: The re-creation of a criminal caste and its mass incarceration.

Readings: Dufton, Emily, "The War on Drugs: How President Nixon Tied Addiction to Crime" The Atlantic. March 26, 2012

Week 10

The Color of Justice: Current Day Discriminatory Prosecution of Black Americans

Reading: Alexander, Michelle., The New Jim Crow. pp. 97-200

Week 11

The Criminal Justice System and its Impact on the Lives of Black People

Readings: Coates, Ta-Nehisi. Between the World and Me pp. 75-114

Goffman, Alice. "The Social Life of Criminalized Young People," "The Market in Protections and Privileges." On the Run.

Week 12

The Way Forward: Pressure for Reform and Political Will

Reading: TBD