

ENGL 7350
Race and Real Estate
Fall 2016

Course Description

Narratives of race and real estate in the United States have usually focused on dispossession, forced segregation, and discrimination. This course acknowledges the validity of these histories while qualifying and complicating traditional notions of race, property, and citizenship. We will draw across disciplines, from literary criticism and sociology to architecture, to examine not only the intersections among race and architecture, homeownership, and place/space, but also narrative aesthetics as sites of social storytelling.

Required Texts

Primary

1. *The Bondwoman's Narrative*, Hannah Crafts
2. *The Conjure Tales and Stories of the Color Line*, Charles Chesnutt; ed. William Andrews
3. *Iola Leroy, or Shadows Uplifted*, Frances Harper
4. *Quicksand*, Nella Larsen
5. *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison
6. *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry
7. *Wine in the Wilderness*, Alice Childress
8. *Stick Fly: A Play*, Lydia Diamond
9. *His Own Where*, June Jordan
10. *Native Guard*, Natasha Trethewey
11. *The Dew Breaker*, Edwidge Danticat

Secondary

12. *Race and Real Estate*, Adrienne Brown and Valerie Smith, eds
13. *Sites Unseen*, William Gleason

Part One: The Social Experience of the Built Environment

8/23/16

Week One: Course Introductions and Overview

William Gleason, Introduction and chapter one, *Sites Unseen*

Adrienne Brown and Valerie Smith, Introduction, *Race and Real Estate (R & RE)*

8/30/16

Week Two: Slave Cabins

Hannah Crafts, *The Bondwoman's Narrative*

William Gleason, *Sites Unseen*, Chapter One

9/6/16

Week Three: Piazza Tales

Charles Chesnutt, *The Conjure Tales and Stories of the Color Line*
William Gleason, *Sites Unseen*, Chapter Two

Part Two: Homemaking Anxieties and Aspirations

9/13/16

Week Four: A Home of One's Own

Frances Harper, *Iola Leroy*

Koritha Mitchell, "From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemaking Anxiety in African American Culture"

9/20/16

Week Five: New Home, New Negroes

Nella Larsen, *Quicksand*

Deborah McDowell, Introduction

Thadious Davis, from *Nella Larsen: Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance*

9/27/16

Week Six: Dispossession

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*

Valerie Smith, "The Meaning of Narration in *Invisible Man*," in *New Essays on Invisible Man*, ed Robert O'Meally (Canvas)

10/4/16

Week Seven: The "Sub-urbs"

Ellison, *Invisible Man*, cont'd

Adrienne Brown, "My Hole is Warm and Full of Light": The Sub-urban Real Estate of *Invisible Man*," in *R & RE*

John Callahan, "Introduction to the Thirtieth Anniversary Edition"

10/11/16

Week Eight: Fall Break

10/18/16

Week Nine: Home as Civil Right

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*

Elda Maria Roman, "Mortgaged Status: Literary Representations of Black Home Ownership and Social Mobility" (Canvas)

→ **FIRST PAPER DUE**

10/25/16

Week Ten: Home as Black Power

Alice Childress, *Wine in the Wilderness*

Soyica Diggs, "Performing blackness in the drama of Alice Childress," in *Contemporary African American Women Playwrights*, by Philip Colin (Canvas)

Part Three: Race and Place

11/1/16

Week Eleven: Ghettos

Mitchell Duneier, "Preface," "A Nazi Deception," and "Harlem: 1965" from *Ghetto: The Invention of a Place, The History of an Idea* (Canvas)

June Jordan, *His Own Where*

June Jordan, "Letter to R. Buckminster Fuller" (Canvas)

June Jordan, "Skyrise for Harlem" (Canvas)

June Jordan, "A Poem About Vieques, Puerto Rico" (Canvas)

Vermonja R. Alston, "'Moving Towards Home': The Politics and Poetics of Environmental Justice in the Work of June Jordan" (Canvas)

11/8/16

Week Twelve: Resorts

Lydia Diamond, *Stick Fly: A Play*

Richard Taylor, Introduction: Hemmed In and "Hemmed in No More," from *Martha's Vineyard: Race, Property, and the Power of Place* (2016)

11/15/16

Week Thirteen: Southscapes

Natasha Tretheway, *Native Guard*

Thadious Davis, from *Southscapes* (Canvas)

11/22/16

Week Fourteen: Global Souths

Edwidge Danticat, *The Dew Breaker*

June Dwyer, "Place and Real Estate: The Question of Community in Edwidge Danticat's *Dew Breaker*" in *R & RE*

11/29/16

Week Fifteen: Writing Workshop

12/13/16 → SECOND AND FINAL PAPER DUE, 5pm