

**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
FALL SEMESTER 2004**

**Contemporary Urban Issues Urban Studies 302 Section 2**

**Time:** Tuesday, Thursday 8 - 9:50 a.m.  
**Instructor:** Dr. Ronnie Dunn  
**Office:** Urban Affairs Building, Room UR 107  
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**Office hours:** By appointment

**Course Description:**

This course examines the physical, social, and economic dimensions of the urban crisis with an emphasis on minority communities in general and African Americans in particular. We will explore the dynamics of race and class in American cities. An interdisciplinary approach will be used to study contemporary issues such as poverty, education, and race and the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on the issue of racial profiling.

**Course Objectives:**

The purpose is to provide students with scholarly and practical skills. By participating in the course, the student is expected to gain a better understanding of:

Issues and challenges to Urban America

Public Policy and politics relevant to race and ethnicity

Appreciation of diversity

Build communication skills through class participation and classroom presentations

Enhance writing, research, critical thinking, and analytical skills through writing assignments and a final paper.

**General Education Requirements:**

This course fulfills both the *Writing Across the Curriculum* (WAC) and the *African American Experience: Race and Racism* General Education Requirements.

In order to earn a "C" in the class and meet the WAC requirements each student must write an 8-10 page paper (2000 word minimum) written at a "C" skill level. However, if your writing is weak, yet you demonstrate an understanding of the course material, you

may receive at least a “D” grade, but will not receive WAC credit for the course. This paper must be typewritten or word processed in double-spaced format. Grammar and spelling will be graded. Spell-check your work!

### **Course Requirements:**

This course will consist of readings, lectures, viewing audiovisual materials, class discussions, the stated written assignment, class presentations, and (tentatively) guest speakers. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each class and each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion for at least one assigned reading. Exams will be based on material from each of these sources. Therefore, regular class attendance is necessary to do well in the course.

### **Grading:**

Midterm and final exams (25% each)	50%
Book review draft	20%
Final book review	20%
Paper presentation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

***Late assignments will be penalized.*** A full letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for that assignment each day that the assignment is late.

### **Required Text:**

Steinberg, Stephen, 2000, **Race and Ethnicity in the United States:** Issues and Debates. Malden, MA. Blackwell Publishers Ltd.

Articles may be provided by instructor or will be in main library on electronic course reserve

### **Supplemental Readings:**

Harris, David, 2002, **Profiles in Injustice:** Why Racial Profiling Cannot Work. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

**OR**

Anderson, Elijah, 1999, **Code of the Street:** Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Students have the option of choosing either of the supplemental readings as the subject for a book review. Students should attend class before purchasing the supplemental

reading. Both books should be available in the campus bookstore by the second week of class. Both books are also on reserve in the main library on campus.

## Course Outline and Reading Schedule

- Week 1: Introduction to Course  
Course overview  
Research papers  
*Race and Ethnicity*, Introduction to Part I
- Week 2: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 1  
Video: *A Pattern of Suspicion*  
Racial Profiling lecture
- Week 3: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 2  
Discussion of **Profiles in Injustice**
- Week 4: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 3  
Article: *The Real Deal on Black Unemployment*  
Video: *What's in a Name?*
- Week 5: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 4  
Article: *And the Last Shall be First*
- Week 6: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 5  
Midterm review  
**Midterm exam**
- Week 7: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 6  
Discussion of **Code of the Street**  
Guest speaker
- Week 8: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 7  
Video: *The Reunion*  
**Book review drafts due**
- Week 9: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 8  
Guest Speaker
- Week 10: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 9  
**Book review drafts returned**
- Week 11: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 10
- Week 12: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 11

Week 13: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 12  
**Book review due (Tuesday class)**  
Student presentations

Week 14: *Race and Ethnicity*, Unit 14  
Student presentations

Week 15: Student presentations  
Final review

Week 16: **Final exam**