

**Departments of Economics, Brown University**

**EC 1370: *Race and Inequality in the US***

**Spring 2010 Course Syllabus**

**Professor: Glenn C. Loury**, Robinson, 105, x3-2606 [Off hrs: M-W 10am-noon.] Course web page: <http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Glenn%5FLoury/louryhomepage/> (links to “teaching” and ”EC137”)

**A. Description:** This course examines racial inequality in the United States from the perspective of economics, history and sociology. (Warning: We will take a broad and holistic view of this problem. This is NOT mainly a technical economics course.) Among the issues to be considered are segregation and discrimination; racial stereotyping; the structural and historical origins of racial ghettos; crime, punishment, and race; and the history, the ethics, and the optimal design of affirmative action policies.

**B. Requirements:** This is more a lecture course, NOT a seminar. Approximately 3/4 of class time will be given lectures, and 1/4 to discussion. *There is no midterm or final exam for this course.* Rather, grading will be based upon students’ performance on four short (3pp) papers written in response to the readings, assigned roughly at two-week intervals over the first half of the course. In addition, for the second half of the term students will work on a fifth, more demanding (10pp) paper, on some theme of the student’s choosing (in consultation with the professor), which is due on the last day of reading period. Lecture notes, PowerPoint presentations, and optional readings materials for this course can be found at my homepage URL (above), following the link to “Teaching” and to “EC 137.” *For your information, given a class of this size, I categorically CANNOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS.*

**C. Reading:** The books for the course (available at the bookstore and on reserve in the library) are:

1. Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton University Press. 1996
2. Glenn C. Loury (I), *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*. Harvard University Press. 2002
3. Glenn C. Loury (II), *Race, Incarceration and American Values*. M.I.T. Press. 2008
3. Bruce Western, *Punishment and Inequality in America*. Russell Sage Press. 2006
4. Elijah Anderson, *Code of the Streets: Decency, Violence and the Moral Life of Inner Cities*. W.W. Norton. 1999
6. Rebecca Blank et al., *Measuring Racial Discrimination*. National Academies Press. 2004
7. Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White*. W.W. Norton. 2005

In addition to these core texts, we will have occasion to consult a variety of articles and essays that are, or will soon be, posted at the course website.

**D. Course Schedule, Topics and Some Associated Readings:**

1. Have We Entered A Post Racial Era? [1 class. Speeches of Lincoln, Johnson, & Obama]
2. Can We Really Talk? Burdens of Political Correctness. [1 class. Loury’s censorship essay]
3. An Historical Case Study I: Racial Inequality in post-WWII Detroit [2 classes: Sugrue]  
**[Short Paper#1 due Feb. 9]**
4. An Historical Case Study II: Racial Inequality and the New Deal [2 classes: Katznelson]
5. Morality and Violence in the Inner-City: On the ‘Code of the Streets’ [2 classes: Anderson]  
**[Short Paper #2 due Feb. 25]**
6. Theorizing Race: On the ‘Anatomy of Racial Inequality’ [2 classes: Loury (I)]
7. Measuring Racial Discrimination: Some Analytical Issues [2 classes: Blank et al.]  
**[Short Paper #3 due March 11]**
8. Crime, Punishment and Race [4 classes: Western and Loury (II)]  
**[Short Paper #4 due March 25]**
9. Economic Analysis of Affirmative Action Policies [3 classes: various of my posted articles]  
**Final Term Paper due May 11**