Reflections on the Present from those who Study the Past: CSUF Historians Suggest Sources to Contextualize Discussions of Contemporary Racism and Inequality

As U.S. focused historians committed to research and teaching that complicates and enriches current conversations about slavery, racism and racial identity, civil rights activism, policing, and public commemoration, we recommend these books, articles, films, documentaries, exhibits, projects, and primary materials. This list of sources is neither exhaustive nor conclusive, but a sample of meaningful works in the field. As a department, we plan to continue to use the strengths of our discipline to engage with difficult questions of inequality and racism in our classrooms and beyond.

**Slavery, Capitalism, and the Founding of America: Interrogating the origins and evolution of slavery in the Americas**

Berry, Dana Ramey *The Price for Their Pound of Flesh: The Value of Enslaved, from Womb to Grave, in the Building of a Nation* (Penguin, 2017)


Carl N. Degler, *Neither Black Nor White: Slavery and Race Relations in Brazil and the United States* (1972)


Barbara Jeanne Fields, *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland during the Nineteenth Century* (Yale University Press, 1984)


Edmund Morgan, *American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia*

Gary Nash, Red, White, and Black: The Peoples of Early North America


Caitlin Rosenthal, Accounting for Slavery: Masters and Management (2019)

**The Brutality of Slavery:** Excavating the many sufferings and hopes of the enslaved


Melton McLaurin, Celia: A Slave (1999)


David Brion Davis, Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World (2008)

**Race and Space in America:** Understanding how racial inequalities have shaped the organization of space and protection of privilege


Kevin Boyle, Arc of Justice: A Sage of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age (Henry Holt and Co., 2005)

Lawrence B. de Graaf, Quintard Taylor, Kevin Mulroy, Seeking El Dorado: African Americans in California (University of Washington Press, 2001)


Kenneth W. Goings, ed. The New African American Urban History (Sage, 1996)


Andrew Hacker, Two Nations: Black and White, Separate, Hostile, Unequal (Scribner, 2003)

William H. Harris, The Harder We Run: Black Workers since the Civil War (Oxford University Press, 1982)

Chester Hartman and Gregory Squires, eds, There Is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class and Katrina (Routledge, 2006)


Robert Johnson and Charlene Riggins, A Different Shade of Orange: Voices of Orange County, California Black Pioneers (California State University, Fullerton 2009)

Katherine McKittrick and Clyde Woods, *Black Geographies and the Politics of Place* (South End Press, 2007)


Josh Sides, *L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present* (University of California Press, 2006)


**Race and Public Memory:** Analyzing practices of remembering and the power of often contested public commemorations in shaping regional and national identities


Tony Horwitz, *Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War* (1999)


**Enslavement of Native Americans:** Explaining Indian servitude and slavery


Barr, Juliana *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands* (University of North Carolina Press, 2007)


**Multiracial Civil Rights Activism in California:** Recognizing multiracial protests and reform traditions


Hewitt (et al) *No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of US Feminism* (Rutgers, 2010)

**Policing Practices and Incarceration:** Interrogating systems of and challenges to law enforcement since the late 19th century


**Black Freedom Struggle:** Examining African Americans’ long and persistent fight for social justice


Anderson, Carol *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (Bloomsbury, 2016) While tracing Black freedom, Anderson also traces white reaction and resistance to achievements. Check her many op ed on voting rights and effectively links current events to historical patterns. Find them here - [https://www.professorcarolanderson.org/media](https://www.professorcarolanderson.org/media)

W. E. Burghardt Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880*


Bobby Seale, *Seize the Time: The Story of the Black Panther Party and Huey P. Newton*


**Race and Gender:** Considering the intersections of race and gender in the lives and activism of African American women.


**Black Cultural Politics:** Highlighting the creative expressions of black communities and their political meanings


David Margolick, *Strange Fruit: Biography of a Song* (Ecco, 2001)


Penny M. Von Eschen, Satchmo Blows Up the World: Jazz Ambassadors Play the Cold War (1997)

**Race and Imperialism:** *Identifying the importance of race in the projection of American empire*

Ingrid Monson, Freedom Sounds: Civil Rights Call Out to Jazz and Africa (Oxford, 2007)


**Envisioning Blackness:** *Depicting African American subjects in art and music*

Benjamin Cawthra, Blue Notes in Black and White: Photography and Jazz (University of Chicago Press, 2011)

Elizabeth Abel, Sign of the Times: The Visual Politics of Jim Crow (University of California Press, 2010)

Dora Appel and Shawn Michelle Smith, Lynching Photographs (University of California Press, 2008)

Alfred Appel, Jr., Jazz Modernism: From Armstrong and Ellington to Matisse and Joyce (Yale University Press, 2004)

Albert Boime, The Art of Exclusion: Representing Blacks in the Nineteenth Century (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1990)


Roy DeCarava and Langston Hughes, The Sweet Flypaper of Life (Howard University Press, 1955)


Peter Galassi, Roy DeCarava: A Retrospective (1996)


Peter H. Wood, Near Andersonville: Winslow Homer’s Civil War (Harvard University Press, 2010)


Richard Wright, 12 Million Black Voices (Basic Books, 1941)

**African American Literature/Primary Documents:** *Experiencing black history through firsthand and literary accounts*
The LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka Reader (1999)

James Baldwin, Collected Essays (1998)

James Baldwin, Go Tell It on the Mountain (1953)

James Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues” (1957)

David Bradley, The Chaneysville Incident (1981)


William Wells Brown, Clotel (1853)


Charles W. Chesnut, The Conjure Woman (1899)

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself (1845)

Frederick Douglass, My Bondage and My Freedom (1855)

W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk (1903)

Gerald Early, Tuxedo Junction: Essays on American Culture (1989)

The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison (2003)

Ralph Ellison, Invisible Man (1952)

Charles Fuller, A Soldier’s Play (1982)


Lorraine Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun (1959)

Chester Himes, If He Hollers Let Him Go (1945)

Langston Hughes, The Ways of White Folks: Stories (1934)

Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937)

Harriet Jacobs, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl (1861)

Charles Johnson, Middle Passage (1990)

James Weldon Johnson, Black Manhattan (1930)


T. Geronimo Johnson, Hold It ‘Til It Hurts (2012)
Jake Lamar, Bourgeois Blues: An American Memoir (1992)


Alain Locke, ed., The New Negro (1925)


Deborah E. McDowell and Arnold Rampersad, eds., Slavery and the Literary Imagination (1988)

Toni Morrison, Sula (1973)

Toni Morrison, Beloved (1987)

Albert Murray, Stomping the Blues (1976)

Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave (1853)

Lynn Nottage, Ruined (2008)

Lynn Nottage, Sweat (2015)

Ann Petry, The Street (1946)

Ishmael Reed, Flight to Canada (1976)

Jackie Robinson, I Never Had It Made (1972)

Ntozake Shange, for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf (1976)

Jean Toomer, Cane (1923)

David Walker, An Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World (1829)

Jesmyn Ward, Salvage the Bones (2011)

Jesmyn Ward, Sing, Unburied, Sing (2017)

Colson Whitehead, The Underground Railroad (2016)


Harriet Wilson, Our Nig (1859)

Richard Wright, The Library of America Unexpurgated Edition

Lawd Today!/Uncle Tom’s Children/Native Son/Black Boy (American Hunger)/The Outsider (2019)
The Autobiography of Malcolm X (1965)

Films/Documentaries

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross. Available at PBS
Reconstruction: America After the Civil War (2019)
Color Adjustment (Marlon Riggs, 1992)
Henry Hampton/Blackside Inc. Documentaries:
Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954-65 (1987)
I Am Not Your Negro (James Baldwin) (Raoul Peck, 2016)
O.J.: Made in America (Ezra Edelman, 2016)
Reconstruction: America After the Civil War Available for streaming at PBS
Roots Miniseries 2016 Updated Version and 1977 Classic
13th (Ava DuVernay, 2016) Available for streaming at Netflix

Feature Films: Changing representations of blackness in popular films of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries

Within Our Gates (Oscar Micheaux, 1920)
The Bronze Buckaroo (Richard C. Kahn, 1939)
The Proud Valley (Pen Tennyson, 1942)
A Raisin in the Sun (Daniel Petrie, 1961)
Cotton Comes to Harlem (Ossie Davis, 1970)
Killer of Sheep (Charles Burnett, 1977)
Do the Right Thing (Spike Lee, 1989)
Boyz n the Hood (John Singleton, 1991)
Daughters of the Dust (Julie Dash, 1992)
Devil in a Blue Dress (Carl Franklin, 1995)

Selma, (Ava DuVernay, 2014)

Queen & Slim (Melina Matsoukas, 2019)

**Websites/Museums/Playlists:** *Researching and sharing black history in other forms*

Ask a Slave: The Web Series: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHPZR1IUMS47BA-N2Ihrltg

Equal Justice Initiative/National Memorial for Peace and Justice/The Legacy Museum from Enslavement to Mass Incarceration: https://eji.org/

Playlist of black music as compiled by Harvard Af-Am faculty: https://aaas.fas.harvard.edu/2020FacultyPlaylist?admin_panel=1

Hip-Hop Archive: http://hiphoparchive.org/

Hutchins Center for African American Research: https://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/

History Design Studio (from Hutchins Center): https://historydesignstudio.com/

Kamoinge Photographic Collective: https://kamoingeworkshop.squarespace.com/

Motown Museum, Detroit: https://www.motownmuseum.org/

National Blues Museum, St. Louis: https://www.nationalbluesmuseum.org/

National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis: https://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/

National Jazz Museum in Harlem: http://jazzmuseuminharlem.org/

National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Institution: https://nmaahc.si.edu/

Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture: NYPL: Several online exhibits and resources but especially: https://www.nyppl.org/about/locations/schomburg/digital-schomburg/online-exhibitions

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research: http://www.socallib.org/

Southern Poverty Law Center Civil Rights Memorial, Montgomery: https://www.splcenter.org/civil-rights-memorial

Slave Voyages (hosted through Emory): https://www.slavevoyages.org/a

Stax Museum, Memphis: https://staxmuseum.com/

Whitney Plantation Museum, Louisiana: https://www.whitneyplantation.org/

Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America: https://withoutsanctuary.org/