

**AMERICAN STUDIES 01:050:304:01: THE AMERICAN CITY: URBAN ETHNICITIES**

**BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE (AVAILABLE AT BARNES & NOBLE  
BOOKSTORE, DOUGLASS CAMPUS):**

1. Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*. Special Illustrated Edition Including the Author's Photographs. USA: Seven Treasures Publications, 2009. **ISBN:** 9780393930269, Print, new: \$20.00; Print, new rental \$18.00.
2. William L. Riordon, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics*. With an Introduction by Peter Quinn. 1905; reprinted New York: Signet Classics, 1995. **ISBN:** 9780451526205. Print, new: \$5.95; Print, new rental: \$3.85.
3. James T. Farrell, *Young Lonigan*. With an introduction by Ann Douglas. 1932; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, Penguin Group USA, Incorporated, 2002. **ISBN:** 9780142180075. Print, new: \$15.00; Print, new rental: \$12.00
4. Jane Ziegelman, *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement*. 2010; reprinted New York: Harper, 2011. **ISBN:** 9780061288517. Print, new: \$15.00; Print, new rental: \$12.00,
5. Abraham Cahan, *Yekl and The Imported Bridegroom and Other Stories of the New York Ghetto*. With a new introduction by Bernard G. Richards. 1896, 1898; reprinted New York: Dover Books, Inc., 1970. **ISBN:** 9780486224275. Print, new: \$10.95; Print, new rental: \$8.75.
6. Mario Puzo, *The Fortunate Pilgrim*. 1964; reprinted New York: Ballantine Books, Published by the Random House Publishing Group, 2004. **ISBN:** 9780345476722. Print, new: \$8.00; Print, new rental: \$6.40.
7. Alain Locke, ed., *The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance*. With an introduction by Arnold Rampersad. 1925; reprinted New York: A Touchstone Book, Published by Simon & Schuster, 1999. **ISBN:** 9780684838311, Print, new: \$17.00; Print, new rental: \$11.05
8. Kevin Mumford, *Newark: A History of Race, Rights, and Riots in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2007. **ISBN:** 9780814795637. Print, new: \$25.00; Print, new rental: \$22.50.
9. Clare Jean Kim, *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. **ISBN:** 9780300093308. Print, new: \$22.00; Print, new rental: \$19.80.
10. Alex Kotlowitz, *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*. New York: Anchor Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., 1991. **ISBN:** 9780385265560. Print, new: \$16.00; Print, new rental: \$10.40
11. Julia Alvarez, *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*. 1991; reprinted New York: A Plume Book, 1992. **ISBN:** 9781565129757. Print, new: \$13.95; Print, new rental: \$9.05.

12. All articles available on reserve at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library and online both at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/> and at the Library Reserve web site: [http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib\\_servs/course\\_reserves.shtml](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/rul/lib_servs/course_reserves.shtml).

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**THE SYLLABUS FOR THIS COURSE AND ALL OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>. THEY SHOULD BE PRINTED OUT AND BROUGHT TO CLASS. ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH ME SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO MY E-MAIL ADDRESS: [fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu).**

**NOTE: ALL PAPERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE INSTRUCTOR IN HARD COPY AS WELL AS BY E-MAIL TO [FISHBEI@RCL.RUTGERS.EDU](mailto:FISHBEI@RCL.RUTGERS.EDU) ON THE DATE ASSIGNED. PENALTIES FOR LATENESS MAY INCLUDE FAILURE ON THE ASSIGNMENT.**

**Participation in class discussion: (15% of final grade).**

**Each student will be the primary moderator of one class and the assistant moderator of another: (15% of final grade).**

**Five one-page (two-paragraph) responses to assigned reading for each week. You may choose the weeks on which you write these papers. They will be graded on a scale of 1-5, based on the originality of your insights and the clarity, intelligence, wit or humor of your perceptions. They should be posted on the Discussion and Private Messages section of the Sakai course web site and, only if that procedure fails for technical reasons, e-mailed to me at ([fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu)) no later than 7:00 P.M. on the night preceding class. Make sure to include your name and the text you are discussing on your paper as well as a question intended to stimulate class discussion. These papers will allow us to work on your writing on a regular basis. They also will improve class discussion. (15% of final grade)**

**Film paper (4-5 pages double-spaced) due on date associated with the film chosen among the following two choices. Outside reading is not required, but all reading and film needs to be cited properly in footnotes and bibliography:**

***ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES* (1938, 98 MINUTES) PAPER DUE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>. Compare and contrast the attitude toward youth violence and its consequences in the Irish-American immigrant community in James T. Farrell's novel *Young Lonigan* (1932) and Michael Curtiz's 1938 film *Angels with Dirty Faces*. To what degree are the Irish-American boys Studs Lonigan and friend Rocky Sullivan (James Cagney) and Jerry Connolly (Pat O'Brien) portrayed as evil or sinful in childhood. What are the factors that shape their subsequent attitude toward violence and crime and their ultimate choice of career? To what degree are they portrayed as victims of prevailing notions of masculinity within their Irish-American communities, and to what degree are they viewed as able to transcend those attitudes and determine their own personal and career choices?**

**HESTER STREET (1975, 89 MINUTES) PAPER DUE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>.**

Compare and contrast the gendered nature of the acculturation process for Jewish men and women respectively in Abraham Cahan's *Yekl* (1896) and *The Imported Bridegroom* (1898) and Joan Micklin Silver's 1974 film *Hester Street* (if you wish, you may include the 1989 film *The Imported Bridegroom* in your analysis). How are male roles transformed in the New World by the presence of sports, dancing academies, and other urban alternatives to a life of religious study? What impact does the New York urban environment have on the stability of family life? How do notions of love and romance alter the nature of Jewish existence? How are women transformed by the new environment? How well does their shtetl experience prepare them for the expectations of their life in New York City? Which gender is better adapted to success in a cosmopolitan urban world?

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>: 8-10 page term paper due on topic to be decided in personal consultation with instructor by Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

I encourage students to select a term paper topic from a list of student suggestions supplemented by suggestions of my own. Since each student's research will be tailored to that student's individual interest and academic goals, it is essential to meet with me so that I can assist you in the research, we can collaborate on selecting appropriate and trustworthy scholarly resources, and you can develop the research question that will guide you in working on your term paper. You are welcome to continue to consult with me in person and via phone and e-mail, but you are required to meet with me in person by Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

You also are required to include three of the sources we choose in the term paper you submit. Failure to utilize those sources may result in a lowered grade or failure on your term paper. All term papers must include footnotes or endnotes and bibliography in the format provided by Acknowledging Sources (on Sakai and American Studies Department web site) or in accordance with another scholarly citation format such as the Chicago Style Sheet. (40% of final grade)

**GRADING COMPONENTS:**

Film paper:	15%
5 Postings to Sakai web site	15%
Class participation	15%
Moderation	15%
Term Paper	40%

Class participation will only improve your grade

**NOTE: MORE THAN THREE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES MAY RESULT IN FAILURE IN THE COURSE. TO BE EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE DOCUMENTED BY A NOTE FROM YOUR DEAN OR OTHER AUTHORITATIVE EVIDENCE.**

Office: Ruth Adams Building 024C

Office hours: Monday: 1:15-3:45

Tuesday: 2:00-3:30

Office telephone: (848) 932-8650

and by appointment

E-mail: [fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:fishbei@rci.rutgers.edu) Please telephone me only during my office hours. Otherwise it is best to reach me by e-mail.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY: Full Attendance and Spirited Class Participation and Moderation = 30%. This is a seminar. Its success depends on your active and informed participation in our weekly discussions. Therefore, attendance is required at ALL class meetings (only ONE unexcused absence will be permitted without penalty), and class participation constitutes an essential part of the final grade. Chronic lateness will lower your final class grade. To have an absence counted as “excused,” it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from your dean or other verifiable evidence such as a dated note from a physician, which must be presented to the instructor. Missing more than four class sessions will result in an automatic failing grade (F) for the course. If you miss a screening, you are responsible for arranging with Media Services to make it up.**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students with documented disabilities should present their documentation to the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to be afforded appropriate accommodations.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Except for collaborative assignments officially approved by the instructor in advance, all work a student submits must be his/her own independent effort. Students must cite properly all outside sources consulted in preparing written assignments. Students should review the university policy on Academic Integrity (see the website for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). The Writing Program maintains a website that defines and discusses plagiarism: [http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/201/plagiarism\\_policy/](http://wp.rutgers.edu/courses/201/plagiarism_policy/). This site clarifies many issues regarding the University’s policy on academic integrity. Failure to comply with this policy can result in failure of the course.

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be promptly cited in the text or in a footnote.

Acknowledgement is required when material from another source is stored in print, electronic, or other medium and is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment ..." and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information which is common knowledge, such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc., need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged. In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, only materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography. Plagiarism can, in some cases, be a subtle issue. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with the faculty member. For information on proper documentation, consult Acknowledging Sources: <http://amerstudies.rutgers.edu/documents/AcknowledgingSources.pdf>, the guide prepared by the Rutgers American Studies Department, which is available on the American Studies Department web site and on the course Sakai web site.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All readings on reserve at the Mabel Smith Douglass Reserve Desk and all articles available on electronic reserve.

- | <b><u>No.</u></b> | <b><u>Week of:</u></b>     | <b><u>Readings and Films</u></b>  |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---|
| I.                | September 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <p>Introduction: Immigration and the City</p> <p><b><i>THE IMMIGRANT (1917, 25 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS</i></b></p>  |
| II.               | September 9 <sup>th</sup>  | <p>Jacob Riis, <i>How the Other Half Lives</i>. Special Illustrated Edition Including the Author's Photographs. USA: Seven Treasures Publications, 2009. Preface by J.A.R. and James Russell Lowell; Introduction, pp. 9-178. Appendix. Statistics Bearing on the Tenement Problem: pp. 179-183.</p> <p><b>POWERPOINT OF JACOB RIIS AND LEWIS HINE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWN IN CLASS</b></p>   |
| III.              | September 16 <sup>th</sup> | <p>William L. Riordon, <i>Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics</i>. With an Introduction by Peter Quinn. 1905; reprinted New York: Signet Classics, 1995. <b>ISBN:</b> 9780451526205. Print, new: \$5.95; Print, new rental: \$3.85. Title page; Introduction by Peter Quinn and photograph on opposing page of George Washington Plunkitt; Introduction by Peter Quinn: pp. vii-xiii; Preface by William L. Riordon: pp. xxv-xxvii; Charles F. Murphy, "A Tribute to Plunkitt by the Leader of Tammany Hall"; pp. 3-92.</p> <p><b><i>THE MUSKETEERS OF PIG ALLEY (1912, 12 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS</i></b></p> <p><b><i>ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES (1938, 98 MINUTES) ON RESERVE AT MEDIA SERVICES, MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup></i></b></p> |
| IV.               | September 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <p>James T. Farrell, <i>Young Lonigan</i>. With an introduction by Ann Douglas. 1932; reprinted New York: Penguin Books, Penguin Group USA, Incorporated, 2002. Penguin Classics: <i>Young Lonigan</i> and biography of Ann Douglas: unnumbered page; Introduction by Ann Douglas: pp. vii-xxiv; page opposite Section One; pp. 5-198.</p> <p><b><i>FIVE POINTS GANG (2008, 41 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS</i></b></p>  |

- | <u>No.</u> | <u>Week of:</u>   | <u>Readings and Films</u>   |
|------------|---|---|
| V.         | September 30 <sup>th</sup><br><br><b>ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES (1938, 98 MINUTES) PAPER DUE</b> | <p>Hasia Diner, <i>Erin's Daughters in America: Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth Century</i>. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983. Introduction: pp. xiii-xvi; pp. 43-119; Notes: pp. 161, 166-179.</p> <p>Carol Groneman, "Working-Class Immigrant Women in Mid-Nineteenth Century New York: The Irish Woman's Experience," <i>Journal of Urban History</i> 4 (May 1978): 255-273.</p>  |
| VI.        | October 7 <sup>th</sup>   | <p>Jane Ziegelman, <i>97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement</i>. 2010; reprinted New York: Harper, 2011. Acknowledgments: p. xi; Introduction: pp. xiii-xvii; 1-227; Notes: pp. 229-234.</p> <p>Ralph Fasanella, <i>Family Supper</i>:<br/> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/americanart/photos/a.61306956399.84372.29428791399/10152044359451400/?type=1">https://www.facebook.com/americanart/photos/a.61306956399.84372.29428791399/10152044359451400/?type=1</a><br/>           Review in detail: to be discussed in class.</p> <p>Post online on the course Sakai web site a family recipe for a particular food that is important to the culinary and/or ritual or religious life of your family. If you cannot obtain a recipe from your own family, adopt a family and extract a family recipe from that family.</p> <p><b>HESTER STREET (1975, 89 MINUTES) ON RESERVE AT MEDIA SERVICES, MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014-TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014</b></p> |
| VII.       | October 14 <sup>th</sup>  | <p>Abraham Cahan, <i>Yekl and The Imported Bridegroom and Other Stories of the New York Ghetto</i>. With a new introduction by Bernard G. Richards. 1896, 1898; reprinted New York: Dover Books, Inc., 1970. . Introduction by Bernard G. Richards, pp. iii-vii; <i>Yekl</i>, pp. 1-89; "The Imported Bridegroom, P pp. 93-162; "A Providential Match," pp. 163-187; "A Sweatshop Romance," pp. 188-202;"Circumstances," pp. 203-223; "A Ghetto Wedding," pp. 224-240.</p> <p><b>THE IMPORTED BRIDEGROOM (1989, 93 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS</b></p>  |
| VIII.      | October 21 <sup>st</sup><br><br><b>HESTER STREET (1975, 89 MINUTES) PAPER DUE</b>             | <p>Mario Puzo, <i>The Fortunate Pilgrim</i>. 1964; reprinted New York: Ballantine Books, Published by the Random House Publishing Group, 2004. Dedication; Quotation from Simone Weil; Preface by Mario Puzo: pp. ix-xi; pp. 3-276.</p>   |

**No.      Week of:                      Readings and Films**

- IX.      October 28<sup>th</sup>                      Alain Locke, ed., *The New Negro: Voices of the Harlem Renaissance*. With an introduction by Arnold Rampersad. 1925; reprinted New York: A Touchstone Book, Published by Simon & Schuster, 1999. Dedication; Introduction by Alain Locke: pp. ix-xvii; Alain Locke, "The New Negro," pp. 3-16; Rudolph Fisher, "The City of Refuge," pp. 57-74; Rudolph Fisher, "Vestiges: Harlem Sketches," pp. 75-95; J. A. Rogers, "Jazz at Home," pp. 216-234; Part II: The New Negro in a New World, pp 268-311; Melville J. Herskovits, "The Negro's Americanism," pp. 353-363.

***I REMEMBER HARLEM (1991, 55 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

***ST. LOUIS BLUES (1933, 15 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

- X.      November 4<sup>th</sup>                      Kevin Mumford, *Newark: A History of Race, Rights, and Riots in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2007. Acknowledgments: pp. vii-ix; List of Abbreviations: xi; Introduction: 1-9; 13-213; Epilogue: pp. 214-223; Notes: pp. 225-285.

***SELECTIONS FROM REVOLUTION '67 (2007, 173 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

- XI.      November 11<sup>th</sup>                      Claire Jean Kim, *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black- Korean Conflict in New York City*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003. Dedication; Acknowledgments: p. ix, A Note on Terminology: p. xi; pp. 1-220; Conclusion: Bitter Fruit: pp. 221-223; Timeline: pp. 225-226; Interviewees: pp. 227-231; Notes: pp. 233-259.

***SA-I-GU (1995, 42 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

- XII.      November 18<sup>th</sup>                      Alex Kotlowitz, *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*. New York: Anchor Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., 1991. Dedication; Poems by Langston Hughes and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Preface: pp. ix-xi; pp. 3-298; Epilogue: pp. 299-305; A Note on Reporting Methods: pp. 307-309; Acknowledgments: pp. 311-313.

***THE QUIET ONE (1948, 67 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS***

***The Central Park Five (2012, 120 minutes) on reserve at Media Services, the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.***

**No.      Week of:                      Readings and Films**

- XIII. December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 8-10 PAGE TERM  
PAPER DUE IN  
HARD COPY AND  
E-MAILED TO  
FISHBEI@RCL.  
RUTGERS.EDU**
- Benjamin Weiser, “City Accused of Dragging Its Feet on Settling Suit in ’89 Jogger Rape Case,” *New York Times* 11 April 2014: <http://nyti.ms/1qpA3WJ>. A version of this article appears in print on April 12, 2014, on page A17 of the New York edition with the headline: City Accused of Dragging Its Feet on Settling Suit in ’89 Jogger Rape Case.
- Benjamin Weiser, “More Talks Expected in ‘Central Park Five’ Lawsuit,” *New York Times* 15 April 2014: <http://nyti.ms/1ewclaK>; A version of this article appears in print on April 16, 2014, on page A21 of the New York edition with the headline: More Talks Expected in Rape Lawsuit.
- Benjamin Weiser, “5 Exonerated in Jogger Rape Agree to Settle Suit for \$40 Million,” *New York Times* 20 June 2014: A1: <http://nyti.ms/1qjZTf4>. A version of this article appears in print on June 20, 2014, on page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: 5 Exonerated in Jogger Rape Agree to Settle.
- “A Settlement in the Central Park Jogger Case,” Editorial, *New York Times* 20 June 2014: A20: <http://nyti.ms/UWSesW>. A version of this editorial appears in print on June 21, 2014, on page A20 of the New York edition with the headline: A Settlement in the Jogger Case.
- Sarah Bryer, “Beyond the Central Park 5: Racial Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System,” Letter to the Editor, *New York Times* 25 June 2014: <http://nyti.ms/Tyk5OE>. A version of this letter appears in print on June 26, 2014, on page A26 of the New York edition with the headline: Beyond the Central Park 5.
- Kate Taylor and Nate Schweber, “3 Freed in Central Park Jogger Case Thank Supporters,” *New York Times* 27 June 2014: <http://nyti.ms/1mnpNcU>. A version of this article appears in print on June 28, 2014, on page A18 of the New York edition with the headline: After Settlement in Jogger Case, Plaintiffs Thank Supporters.
- Jim Dwyer, “In Botched Case of Park Jogger, an Altered Life.” *New York Times* 26 June 2014: <http://nyti.ms/1vTmGTS>. A version of this article appears in print on June 27, 2014, on page A23 of the New York edition with the headline: In Botched Case of Park Jogger, an Altered Life.
- View *The Central Park Five* (2012, 120 minutes) on reserve at Media Services, the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.**



<u>No.</u>	<u>Week of:</u>	<u>Readings and Films</u>
XIV.	December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Julia Alvarez, <i>How the García Girls Lost Their Accents</i> . 1991; reprinted New York: A Plume Book, 1992. Dedication; Acknowledgments; The Conquistadores: pp. 1-290.  <b><i>ALMOST A WOMAN</i> (2002, 97 MINUTES) SHOWN IN CLASS</b>