

**Urban America:
Construction and Consequence**
Tues/Thurs via Zoom: 9:30 am – 10:50 am
[Zoom Meeting](#)

[María G. Rendón, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor

Department of Urban Planning and Public Policy

E-mail: mgrendon@uci.edu

Zoom Office Hours:

- Wednesdays: 1:30-2:30pm. Appointments available upon request.
- Sign up for 15-minute slots on Canvas no later than 24 hours before meeting time.



Course Objectives:

Students in this course will examine the historical, social, political and economic factors that contributed to the construction of the American urban context, as we know it – a context that is highly poverty concentrated and racially/ethnically segregated. In the first half of the course, students learn about federal and local policies and practices that intertwined to produce America’s spatial inequality. In the second half of the course, students examine contemporary policies and practices that sustain this and critically assess the consequence of growing up in America’s urban neighborhoods as it relates to urban violence, incarceration, education, health disparities and other individual and group outcomes. The course gives special attention to Los Angeles, one of the nation’s largest urban contexts.

Remote Learning: During spring 2021, we will meet once a week (synchronously) – on Thursdays - to engage in discussions of the lectures and readings. I will upload weekly lectures for students to view at their own time (asynchronously). Students are responsible to watch these lectures (and take notes) before our Thursday zoom discussion meeting. These zoom meetings will help students prepare for weekly quizzes due on Fridays. I will record these zoom discussion meetings for students unable to attend due to sickness or exceptional circumstances. Please notify me if you are unable to attend.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe historical policies and practices at the federal and local level that structured racial and class spatial disparities.
- Compare and contrast these historical policies and practices to the contemporary context.
- Analyze contemporary urban problems through a spatial lens.

Books to Purchase

- Kelly Lytle Hernandez. City of Inmates: Conquest, Rebellion and the Rise of Human Caging in Los Angeles, 1771-1965. University of North Carolina Press (2017).
- Ira Katznelson, Ira. When Affirmative Action was White: An Untold Story of Racial Inequality in Twentieth Century America. W.W. Norton & Company (2005).
- Maria G. Rendon. Stagnant Dreamers: How the Inner City Shapes the Integration of Second Generation Latinos. Russell Sage Foundation.

Grading:

Students are expected to complete all readings and be prepared for discussion in class. Student will be assessed based upon performance in the following assignments.

1.) 4 Quizzes (15-20% each)	65%
2.) Final Paper	20%
3.) Discussion Board	15%
4.) Extra Credit	5%