"We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it."
- Michelle Alexander
Each year, the Health Sciences Service Learning and Advocacy Group selects a common book that will engage students from across the health sciences schools in substantive, interprofessional dialogue about pressing topics related to health equity and social justice. This year’s timely selection is *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander, which will provide a spring board for conversations to occur about the connections between racial bias, health disparities, and mass incarceration. Students, staff, and faculty who participate in this series will be able to:

- Develop personal awareness about how racial caste systems affect our health and wellbeing.
- Understand how present-day health disparities have their origins in our colonial history and economic systems.
- Imagine what it would take to create systems and institutions that raise the bar of health for all.
- Cultivate consciousness and skill building regarding the roles and responsibilities of (future) health professionals to challenge policies and systems that place different values on certain lives and bodies on the basis of categories such as class, race, sex, gender and other social identifiers.
- Learn how to have conversations about internalized, interpersonal, and institutional racism.
Please join all Health Sciences students this summer in reading *The New Jim Crow* in preparation for the 2015-2016 Health Sciences Common Book Series. During the series, you will have the opportunity to explore the topics this book raises in more depth (see the tentative Series outline below!).

The Common Book Series will invite you to talk with peers from across the health science schools, with community and academic experts, and most importantly with people who are working together to improve the health of all people knowing everyone is deserving of health, humane working conditions, adequate housing, safety, freedom of movement, freedom from economic displacement, and self-determination. In addition to developing a broad framework for understanding the systems and structures that produce unequal health outcomes and life opportunities for people and communities affected by our system of mass incarceration, this series will equip you with skills and competencies that will enable you as a future health professional to understand how racial stigmatization is a human rights problem that has health consequences for all people in the US. Lastly, engagement with this series offers you the opportunity to identify what your own contribution will be to ongoing struggles toward justice, dignity, and health for all.

**Links to places you can purchase or borrow the book:**

- Copies of the book are also available electronically and on reserve through the [Health Sciences Library](#) and in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library
- Available for purchase at [University Book Store](#), [The New Jim Crow Website](#), [Powell’s Books](#) or [Amazon](#)
Questions to consider as you read:

- How would you describe your own experiences with the war on drugs and the U.S. system of mass incarceration? How has this system impacted your community, the places you are from, and the United States more broadly?
- Why do you think Michelle Alexander draws attention to the concept of colorblindness as a problematic way of perceiving race in the United States?
- How does your own experience and understanding of race, racism, and racial control connect with the perspectives Michelle Alexander puts forward in her book?
- What parts of the book were new and surprising to you? What insights have you gained as a result of reading? What parts of the book left you feeling uncomfortable or wanting to know more?
- How did learning more about the history of anti-black racism in this country impact the way you understand the presence of health disparities in African American communities today?
- In your community, how has fear of crime been exploited to dehumanize the victims of the war on drugs? To what extent has political and social discourse created categories of “us” and “them” which allows those who are not caught up in the criminal justice system to view those who are as lesser human beings?
- How might you describe the overarching theme of this book to your neighbor or someone on the bus?
- How would you talk about the linkages between mass incarceration, racial and ethnic bias, and health disparities? Do you think this should matter to health professionals? Why or why not?
- What key take aways from this book will influence how you engage in your personal and professional life?
- As a future health professional, social worker, or researcher, how do you perceive internalized, interpersonal, and institutional racism showing up in practice?
- What would it take to create a world, including a health care system, which reduces the effects of racism and produces health and dignity for all people? What interventions and actions do you imagine yourself taking to create this world?
Check out this preliminary schedule of events (official dates and locations will be made available by the beginning of the school year at [www.facebook.com/uwhscommonbook](http://www.facebook.com/uwhscommonbook)):

### FALL QUARTER EVENTS

- **October 6th, 5:30-8:00** in Hogness Auditorium, Health Sciences Service Learning and Common Book Kickoff: Come eat food and listen to and reflect upon a panel of health professionals, researchers, and organizers who will speak to the intersections between health, mass incarceration, race and class.
- **October 27th, time TBD:** Ecology, Health, and the Prison Industrial Complex, a panel featuring speakers from the Prison Ecology Network, End the Prison Industrial Complex, and Swedish Hospital’s new program supporting people transitioning out of prison.
- **November 10th, 5:30-7:30:** An interactive workshop on Mass Incarceration, Structural Racism and Health facilitated by community organizers and School of Public Health alums Ariel Hart and Jenn Hagedorn
- **Date TBD:** Pounding the Pavement: A place-based walking/driving tour focusing on history and health in Seattle’s Central District

### WINTER QUARTER EVENTS

- **January 12th, 5:30-7:30:** Film Screening and discussion of *Slavery by Another Name*, a documentary that challenges one of Americans’ most cherished assumptions: the belief that slavery in this country ended with the Emancipation Proclamation
- **Week of January 25th:** Panel of service providers and health professionals who work on the inside
- **Week of February 15th:** Day-long teach-in on mass incarceration, health, and racism. Includes evening panel with public officials discussing strategies and approaches to prison population reduction.

### SPRING QUARTER EVENTS

- **Date TBD:** Film Screening and Q&A with people featured in the film – *Boys on the Inside* – an exploration of gender identity, sexuality, racism, and incarceration
- **Date TBD:** Decarcerate Now: Activism and Advocacy Workshop
- **April 21st, from 5:30-8:00:** Health Sciences Service-Learning Summit – includes presentations from Health Equity Reflections Contest
Here are some links to learn more about themes and topics related to the book:

- **UW Health Sciences Common Book Series Facebook Page**
- **Short Film, Documentary, Photo, & Audio Projects**
  - The Impact of Racism on the Health and Well-Being of the Nation - a webinar series
  - Race, the Power of an Illusion - a three episode series that evaluates the historical development of race as a social construct that unequally impacts life outcomes.
  - Unnatural Causes - a seven part series exploring racial and socioeconomic inequalities in health
  - Michelle Alexander: Locked Out of the American Dream - an interview with Michelle Alexander, conducted by Bill Moyers
  - Slavery to Mass Incarceration - a short film illustrating the historical shift of racial caste in the United States from slavery to Jim Crow to mass incarceration
  - Allegories on Race and Racism – TED talk by Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones
  - Why Are We Still Talking about Racism? - short video where individuals discuss this question
  - Moving the Race Conversation Forward - Jay Smooth discusses internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism
  - The Problem We All Live With – This American Life episodes on desegregation of schools
  - Undoing Time: Pledge - a short film featuring Beverly Henry, a formerly incarcerated woman who had to sew U.S. American flags while incarcerated
  - Slavery by Another Name - a documentary that challenges the notion that forced labor ended with the Emancipation Proclamation
  - Without Sanctuary – Photographs and Postcards of Lynching in America
  - Public Secrets - an online forum for witnessing testimonials of women who are incarcerated in the California criminal justice system
  - Preview for The House I Live in - an inside look at the US criminal justice system and the impact of US drug policy
  - Preview for Out in the Night - a documentary about the New Jersey four, four queer black women who were incarcerated for defending themselves.
  - Interview with Harriet Washington about Medical Apartheid: Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to Present
  - Life Cycles of Inequity: A Colorlines Series on Black Men
- **Organizations**
Local
- Post Prison Education Project
- Seattle King County NAACP
- Public Defender Association
- Youth Undoing Institutional Racism
- End the Prison Industrial Complex
- Northwest Detention Center Resistance
- Outside Agitators 206
- Village of Hope
- Black Prisoners' Caucus
- European Dissent
- Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites
- Books to Prisoners
- Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative
- King County Equity and Social Justice Initiative
- Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project
- Freedom Project
- University Beyond Bars

National
- National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Equal Justice Initiative
- BlackOUT Collective
- Black Lives Matter
- Ferguson Action
- Critical Resistance
- Showing Up for Racial Justice
- Solitary Watch
- All of Us or None

Further reading and viewing
- Articles
  - Levels of Racism: A Theoretic Framework and a Gardener's Tale by Camara Jones
  - A Lack of Care: Why Medical Students should focus on Ferguson by Jennifer Tsai
  - When Rioting is Rational by Michael Gould-Wartofsky
  - How the racists of the south have ruled this country from the very beginning by Susan Grigsby
  - A Brief History of Slavery and the Origins of American Policing by Victor Kappeler
  - How many Prisoners Are in Solitary Confinement in the United States by Jean Casella and James Ridgeway
  - Health Insurance: A Brief History of Reform Efforts in the US by C. Hoffman
  - Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care
  - Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and the Unfinished Civil Rights Agenda by David Barton Smith
  - Concluding observations on the combined seventh to ninth periodic reports of the USA, United Nations, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

A cell in the Pelican Bay SHU, where Kijana Tashiri Askari was held for 24 hours a day in a windowless cell for two decades.
- The Association of Incarceration with Community Health and Racial Health Disparities by Daniel Kruger and E. Hill De Loney
- National Health Insurance: A Brief History of Reform Efforts in the US - includes information on how racism shaped debate and practice
- Critical Race Theory, Race Equity, and Public Health: Toward Antiracism Praxis by Chandra Ford and Collins Airhihenbuwa
- Trends in racial/ethnic disparities in medical and oral health, access to care, and use of services in US children: has anything changed over the years? by Glenn Flores and Hua Lin
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Early Childhood Health and Health Care by Glenn Flores, Lynn Olson, and Sandra Tomany-Korman
- Incarceration, Community Health, and Racial Disparities by Dora Dumont, Scott Allen, Bradley Brockmann, Nicole Alexander, and Josiah Rich
- Postcolonial Bioethics: A Lens for Considering the Historical Roots of Racial and Ethnic Inequalities in Mental Health by Christy Rentmeester
- Physicians' Implicit and Explicit Attitudes about Race by MD Race, Ethnicity, and Gender by Janice Sabin, Brian Nosek, Anthony Greenwald, and Frederick Rivara

Books
- The Half has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism by Edward Baptist
- Golden Gulag by Ruth Wilson Gilmore
- When Affirmative Action was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequity by I. Katznelson
- The Struggle Within: Prisons, Political Prisoners, and Mass Movements in the United States by Dan Berger
- Are Prisons Obsolete? by Angela Davis
- The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America by Naomi Murakawa
- Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women by Victoria Law
- Medical Apartheid: Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present by Harriet Washington
- Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight Against Medical Discrimination by Alondra Nelson
- The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America by Khalil Gibran Muhammad
- Slavery by Another Name by Douglas Blackmon

Reading lists, resource lists and archives
- A crowdsourced syllabus about race, African American history, civil rights and policing
- More articles on Mass Incarceration
- Blackpast.org - the largest free and unrestricted reference center on African American and Global African History on the internet

Health Indicators and Overview of Health Disparities
- CDC. Minority Health: Black or African American Populations
- King County Community Health Indicators
- The Health of Washington State
Get Involved in the Common Book Series: If you have questions about the Common Book Series, or would like to get involved in the planning process (particularly for the author visit), contact Kelsen Caldwell at caldweka@uw.edu.

Photo Credits are in order, starting with page 1:

- Imagery of enslaved person and slave auction notice: [http://www.ps119amersfort.com/yes_we_can/images/slavery.jpg](http://www.ps119amersfort.com/yes_we_can/images/slavery.jpg)
- Barbed wire photo: [https://unprison.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/flag-barbed-wire.jpeg](https://unprison.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/flag-barbed-wire.jpeg)
- Help wanted, white only: [https://southcarolina1670.files.wordpress.com/2009/02/thejimcrowlaws-front.jpg](https://southcarolina1670.files.wordpress.com/2009/02/thejimcrowlaws-front.jpg)
- Juvenile locked up: [http://media.namx.org/images/editorial/2013/08/0814/s_ferriss_juvenile/juvenile_500x279.jpg](http://media.namx.org/images/editorial/2013/08/0814/s_ferriss_juvenile/juvenile_500x279.jpg)
- Hands up don’t shoot photo by Coronare Modestus Faust, August 14, 2014: [https://spfaust.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/hands-up-1-1.jpg](https://spfaust.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/hands-up-1-1.jpg)
- A man was lynched yesterday: [http://genius.com/1324532/Margaret-walker-for-my-people/And-anemia-and-lynching](http://genius.com/1324532/Margaret-walker-for-my-people/And-anemia-and-lynching)