UO Psychology 607 Graduate Seminar
Winter 2021

Trauma and Inequality

Instructor Jennifer Freyd

Syllabus

CRN: 24892
Grading option: Optional
Credits: 1-5
Day/time/location: Fridays 8:00 - 9:45 AM remote

Overview: This seminar is an advanced graduate seminar in the psychology of trauma. We will consider the intersection of trauma and inequality by applying concepts and findings from trauma psychology, and social science more generally, to narrative accounts of trauma. Does the science help us understand the narratives? If not, what is missing?

Prerequisites and Background Reading: Participants will need to have a basic education in psychological trauma theory and research. Ideally participants should be familiar with the two books assigned in the UO course Psychology of Trauma. We will be applying knowledge from trauma psychology to narrative accounts of trauma and inequality. In addition participants should be familiar with Crenshaw (1989). Participants should read these materials before Week 2 if they have not already.

- Trauma & Recovery / Herman (2015)
- Blind to Betrayal / Freyd & Birrell (2013)

Readings: In this seminar, we will read and discuss 3 books. These books are required. At the end of this syllabus you will find a longer list of relevant readings and media from which these three books were selected. You may wish to explore that list for additional readings. Advanced readings on trauma psychology
are available in prior trauma seminar syllabi.

1. *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
2. *Assata: An Autobiography* by Assata Shakur
3. *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller

**Course Work:** Students will be expected to attend all class meetings, do all assigned readings, and to participate actively in seminar discussion. In addition, each participant will lead or co-lead one or two class discussions. In advance of the class meetings student discussion leaders will share discussion questions by the Tuesday at noon before the Friday class. By the Tuesday at noon following the class, the student(s) leading discussion will email to the class a document including the discussion questions, any other presentation material, and capturing important discussion points from class. Student discussion leaders may also assign recommended readings, podcasts, and films in consultation with the instructor.

**Weekly Reading Assignments**

**Week 1, January 8**
Organizational & Introductory Meeting

**Readings:**

- If not already read, start readings from *Prerequisites and Background* section above

**Week 2, January 15**

Discussion Leader: Melissa Barnes

**Readings:**

- If not already read, complete Readings from *Prerequisites and Background* section above
- Erdrich Chapters 1-4 (pp 1-83)

**Week 3, January 22**

Discussion Leader: Alexis Adams-Clark

**Reading:**

- Erdrich Chapters 5-8 (pp 85-199)

**Week 4, January 29**

Discussion Leader: Andrew Fridman

**Reading:**
Week 5, February 5

Discussion Leader: Kavya Mudiam

Reading:
- Shakur Front Matter - Chapter 4 (pp vii-79)

Week 6, February 12

Discussion Leader: Melissa Barnes

Reading:
- Shakur Chapters 5-11 (pp 80-172)

Week 7, February 19

Discussion Leader: Monika Lind

Reading:
- Shakur Chapters 12-Post Script (pp 173-274)

Week 8, February 26

Discussion Leader: Alexis Adams-Clark

Reading:
- Miller Chapters 1-5 (pp 1-123)

Week 9, March 5

Discussion Leader: Andrew Fridman

Reading:
- Miller Chapters 6-9 (pp 124-243)
Week 10, March 12

Discussion Leader: Kavya Mudiam

Reading:

- Miller Chapters 10-Victim Statement (pp 245-363)

Additional Readings and Media Lists

In creating the readings list for this course, I collected possible materials. Some are actually assigned, some not. The lists are included here for your further reading and exploring. This list is not at all exhaustive; a vast amount of literature, film, and art is about aspects of trauma and inequality. Advanced readings on trauma psychology are available [in prior trauma seminar syllabi](https://dynamic.uoregon.edu/jjf/courses/psy607-win21/index.html).

**Fiction**

- *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich
- *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones
- *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- *This is My America* by Kim Johnson

**Non-fiction**

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* as told to Alex Haley
- *Becoming* (also a documentary on Netflix) by Michelle Obama
- *Assata: An Autobiography* by Assata Shakur
- *Know My Name* by Chanel Miller
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

**Documentaries/docuseries**

- *Trial4* (Netflix, 8 episodes)
- *The Heart of the Game* (Amazon video, rent for $3.99)
- *Aly Raisman on The Armchair Expert* podcast (free, widely available)
- *Thirteenth* (Netflix)
- *No! The Rape Documentary*
- *The Bleeding Edge* (Netflix)
- *Nina* (Hulu)
- *RBG* (Hulu)
- *Athlete A* (Netflix)
- *Picture a Scientist*
Narrative movies/series

- Stranger Inside (moderate quality on Youtube)
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (also a book)
- Selma
- The Butler
- The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society