

Listening to Our Black Brothers and Sisters

Today we continue our Listening Lessons with a focus on our Black brothers and sisters. During the class, we will discuss some of the assigned videos and reading and also watch and discuss a video of a young Black woman with a strong, clear message for us.

Goal

To learn more about what it is like to be a person of color in today's America, with a focus on Black Americans.

Class Assignments

- **Joy Reid Delivers Powerful Speech on Capitol Siege and Race.** MSNBC, Jan 6, 2021 (2:04 min). "White Americans aren't afraid of the cops. White Americans are never afraid of the cops, even when they're committing an insurrection."
<https://www.vulture.com/2021/01/joy-reid-delivers-powerful-speech-on-capitol-siege-and-race.html>
- **Racism Is Not a Historical Footnote.** Bill Russell, NBA Hall of Famer. The Player's Tribute. September 14, 2020. "[W]hite people are often surprised that racial injustice still exists outside of a few 'bad apples.' This surprise is particularly dangerous because racial injustice is rampant." <https://www.theplayerstribune.com/articles/bill-russell-nba-racial-injustice>
- **Black Parents Explain How to Deal with the Police.** (5:50 min) Cut, Feb 6, 2017. Powerful glimpse into what parents of different aged boys and girls tell their children about reacting to police. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coryt8IZ-DE&feature=emb_logo
- **James Baldwin Confronts Trump's America In Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s 'Begin Again.'** Now This, Aug 3, 2020 (4:35 min). Legendary author James Baldwin spoke a great deal of truth in his work, and according to Eddie S. Glaude Jr., the words and works of Baldwin are more relevant than ever. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NemAxtnjFa8>
- **Implicit Bias -- how it affects us and how we push through.** Melanie Funchess. TEDxFlourCity, October 26, 2014. (16:12 min). Exploration of implicit bias through personal stories. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr8G7MtRNik>
- **Michelle Alexander interview with Chris Hayes.** MSNBC, April 5, 2016 (14:15 min). Michelle Alexander, legal scholar, human rights activist, and author of a recent essay in the Nation titled, "Why Hillary Clinton Doesn't Deserve the Black Vote," joins Chris Hayes to talk about the presidential campaign, criminal justice, race, and the Democratic Party.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFHNzlx24QM>

Additional Resources to Review

- **James Baldwin: The Fire Next Time, and This Time.** This thoughtful 1983 interview with James Baldwin is still relevant today. (28:06 min)
<https://www.hampshire.edu/news/2015/08/20/james-baldwin-the-fire-next-time-and-this-time>
- **'Just Mercy' Attorney Asks U.S. To Reckon With Its Racist Past And Present.** Interview with Bryan Stevenson by Terry Gross, Fresh Air, NPR. Article and 41 min audio,
<https://www.npr.org/programs/fresh-air/2020/01/20/797265594/fresh-air-for-jan-20-2020-just-mercy-attorney-bryan-stevenson>
 More resources:
 --Book: <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/20342617-just-mercy>
 --Just Mercy organization <https://justmercy.eji.org/>
 --Movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7MxXxFu6fI&vl=en>
- **Listening to Black Voices Amid Murder, Violence, Protest, and Pandemic.** Posted by Jason Kottke, May 29, 2020. A sampling of what Black people (along with a few immigrant and other PoC voices) are saying about the recent murders by police. Be sure to watch the videos. <https://kottke.org/20/05/listening-to-black-voices-amid-murder-violence-protest-and-pandemic>
- **Michelle Alexander: Locked Out of the American Dream.** Moyers & Company, Dec 20, 2013 (35:25 min). After civil rights lawyer Michelle Alexander published her book *The New Jim Crow* in 2010 on our dehumanizing system of incarceration, she ignited a national conversation about justice in America and sparked a movement.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om2hx6Xm2JE&feature=youtu.be>
 AND/OR I'm a Black woman writing about money and race. Here's what I see. P.S. What I learned when I wrote about systemic racism in America.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/18/sincerely-michelle-responses-race-money/?arc404=true>
- **Kimberly Jones - Speaking Out About Black Experiences in America** | The Daily Social Distancing Show. (11:38 min) Activist and author Kimberly Jones unpacks her emotional viral video on the state of race in America, the injustices Black people face beyond the headlines, and her novel "I'm Not Dying with You Tonight."
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1k9APedIUy&feature=youtu.be>