Readings on American Race Relations  
*compiled by Krystyna Mazur, William Glass, Agnieszka Graff, and Marta Usiekniewicz from the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw*

**Start here**

[Black Lives Matter Explained: The History of a Movement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG8GjlLbbvs)

Pew Research Center,[Race in America (2019)](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/04/09/race-in-america-2019/)

Ta-Nehishi Coates,[“A Case for Reparations”](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/)

Ava DuVernay, [13th (Netflix)](https://youtu.be/krfcq5pF8u8)

James Baldwin,[“The American Dream and the American Negro” Speech](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-S2o_wX5cw)

Michelle Alexander on the new Jim Crow, [George E. Kent Lecture](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gln1JwDUI64) at the University of Chicago.

Robin diAngelo,[“‘Why ‘I’m Not a Racist’ Is Only Half the Story”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzLT54QjclA)

**Classic essays**

Franz Fanon, [“The Fact of Blackness”](https://blogs.umass.edu/afroam391g-shabazz/files/2010/02/Frantz-Fanon.pdf)

James Baldwin,[“Stranger in the Village”](https://genius.com/James-baldwin-stranger-in-the-village-annotated) (Polish translation: “Obcy w wiosce”, in “Zapiski syna tego kraju”, trans. M. Denderski, Karakter, 2019)

James Baldwin,[“Notes of a Native Son”](http://www2.csudh.edu/ccauthen/570f15/baldwin.pdf) (Polish translation: “Zapiski syna tego kraju” in “Zapiski syna tego kraju”, trans. M. Denderski, Karakter, 2019)

Ralph Ellison, [“What America Would Be Like Without Blacks”](https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/what-america-would-be-like-without-blacks/)

Toni Morrison,[“Black Matters”](https://acertainsenseoftrouble.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/morrison_playing_in_the_dark.pdf)

Toni Morrison,[“Racism and Fascism”](https://www.leeannhunter.com/gender/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Morrison-article.pdf)

**Contemporary essays**

Pew Research Center,[Race in America 2019](https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2019/04/09/race-in-america-2019/)

 Ta-Nehishi Coates,[“A Case for Reparations”](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/)

Claudia Rankine,[“The Condition of Black Life Is One of Mourning”](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/magazine/the-condition-of-black-life-is-one-of-mourning.html)

Gillian B. White,[“How Did We Get Here? 163 Years of The Atlantic’s Writing on Race and Racism in America”](https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2020/06/atlantic-reader-race-and-racism-us/613057/)

Michelle Alexander The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

**Academic articles and essays**

Kimberle Crenshaw,[“Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex”](https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=uclf)

Christina Sharpe, [In the Wake: On Blackness and Being](https://www.dukeupress.edu/in-the-wake)

George Lipsitz, [“The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: Racialized Social Democracy and the ‘White’ Problem in American Studies”](https://www.jstor.org/stable/2713291)

**Historical research**

Orlando Patterson, Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study (available in the ASC library)

Erica Armstrong Dunbar, Never Caught: the Washington’s Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge (available in the ASC library)

Greg Grandin, The Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom, and Deception in the New World

Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom: The Ordeal of Colonial Virginia

Edward Baptist, The Half that Has Never Been Told (available in the ASC library)

James Walvin, Sugar, the World Corrupted: from Slavery to Obesity and Sven Beckert, Empire of Cotton: A Global History.

Jules Tygiel Baseball’s Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy

Stephen Whitfield, A Death in the Delta: the Story of Emmett Till (available in the ASC library)

John Dittmer, Local People: The Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi

**Classic short fiction**

Richard Wright,[“The Ethics of Living Jim Crow”](https://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/cms/lib/NY01001205/Centricity/Domain/908/AT%20Ethics%20of%20Jim%20Crow.pdf)

James Baldwin, [“Going to Meet the Man”](http://www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/going_to_meet_the_man.pdf) (Polish translation: “Na spotkanie człowieka”, trans. E. Krasińska, PIW, 1971)

**Autobiographies**

Classic Slave Narratives, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

These narratives, along with many others, are available at[“North American Slave Narratives”](https://docsouth.unc.edu/neh) on the website Documenting the American South. A broader collection of  narratives is[“Testimonies of West Africans from the Era of Slavery.”](http://freedomnarratives.dev.matrix.msu.edu/) Finally, the massive oral history collection compiled during the 1930s can be found in[“Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936 to 1938”](https://www.loc.gov/collections/slave-narratives-from-the-federal-writers-project-1936-to-1938/about-this-collection/) at the Library of Congress.

Booker T. Washington, Up from Slavery

Ida B. Wells, Crusade for Justice

Clifton Taulbert, Once upon a Time When We Were Colored

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, as told to Alex Haley

Anne Moody, Coming of Age in Mississippi

**Novel**

Toni Morrison, Beloved (several copies available in the ASC library; Polish translation: Umiłowana, trans. R. Gorczyńska Znak 2007)

Octavia Butler, Kindred (available in the ASC library)

**Poetry**

Claudia Rankine, Citizen: An American Lyric

**Documentary films**

Karen Thorsen, The Price of the Ticket

Goran Olson, The Black Power Mixtape: 1967-75

Stanley Nelson, The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution

Spike Lee, When the Levees Broke (2006) HBO

Raoul Peck, I Am Not Your Negro (2016)

Eyes on the Prize, parts 1 and 2

[The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvijYSJtkQk)by Keith Beauchamp (2005)

**Feature films**

Oscar Micheaux, Within Our Gates (1920)

Ryan Coogler, Fruitvale Station (based on true events)

Ava DuVernay, When They See Us (based on true events) (Netflix)

Spike Lee, BlacKkKlansman (based based on the 2014 memoir Black Klansman by Ron Stallworth)

**Youtube, vimeo, podcasts**

[James Baldwin debates William F. Buckley at Oxford Union](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc5XkgIl_1k) (1965)

James Baldwin,[“On Language, Race, and the Black Writer”](https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/06/19/the-time-james-baldwin-told-uc-berkeley-that-black-lives-matter/)

Reni Eddo-Lodge,[“Why I’m no Longer Talking to White People about Race”](https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2017/may/31/why-im-no-longer-talking-to-white-people-about-race-podcast)

Cheryl I. Harris, [The Afterlife of Slavery: Markets, Property and Race](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQQGndN3BvY)

[Dr. Robin DiAngelo discusses “White Fragility](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45ey4jgoxeU)”

1619,  New York Times

Cornel West,[“Race Matters”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRZcfEToN-A)

 “A Conversation with My Black Son”

[‘What To The Slave Is The Fourth Of July?’](https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=NBe5qbnkqoM&feature=youtu.be): Descendants Read Frederick Douglass’ Speech

**Polish sources**

Mamadou Diouf, “Mała książka o rasizmie”

[“Don’t Call Me ‘Murzyn’”](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwIfFRmJM0c&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2hoFZYy5dN61xJImovEzEhqjdtPjkzZiGeFsx_RZjoBzVEbk_BrMA29ac)

[AMAKA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKRpRSBLCd4&fbclid=IwAR3ZxslJrquYCMSh7-4bTSpVZMEBZnV8zeu9C_mtZ8o0vpqMXs_-oRnTAcA): Już nie szukam miejsca, w którym będę taka jak inni

[Hanna Frejlak, “Rasim którym oddychamy”](https://magazynkontakt.pl/rasizm-ktorym-oddychamy/?fbclid=IwAR36Da6FimGeLyh_jDiX0h41DtKWxpxWkW8pRdRRn6kQuW2K4nVFNehSd4U)

[Poradnik językowy UW](https://www.uw.edu.pl/poradnik-jezykowy/)

Agnieszka Wądołowska, [“Czy Murzyn obraża? Zapytaliśmy czarnoskórych Polaków, językoznawców, historyka i aktywistkę”](https://notesfrompoland.com/2020/06/12/czy-murzyn-obraza-zapytalismy-czarnoskorych-polakow-jezykoznawcow-historyka-i-aktywistke/)

Marek Łaziński, [“Spory o słowo Murzyn”](https://www.polityka.pl/tygodnikpolityka/kultura/1959972,1,spory-o-slowo-murzyn.read)

[“Jak mówić i pisać o Afryce?”](https://afryka.org/batory/poradnik.pdf)

Margaret Ohia, [“Mechanizmy dyskryminacji rasowej w systemie języka polskiego”](https://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Ohia_przeglad-humanistyczny.pdf)

Margaret Ohia, [“Racism in Public Discourse in Poland. A Preliminary Analysis”](https://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/RACISM-IN-PUBLIC-DISCOURSE-IN-POLAND.-A-PRELIMINARY-ANALYSIS.pdf)

Margaret Ohia, Paweł Nowak, [“Nie wszyscy Polacy są biali, czyli o czym nie śniło się Norwidowi”](https://krytykapolityczna.pl/kraj/norwid-cos-ty-ludziom-zrobil-przypadek-murzyna/)

Jarosław Pietrzak, [“Brzydkie słowo: Rasa”](https://jaroslawpietrzak.com/2020/07/01/brzydkie-slowo-rasa/?fbclid=IwAR0E0q2tb6gZzWeZVpqPzy_TUVlRDcnyBnbScWoJwFoZZOjcehkculoHQ_4)