

Antiracist Discussion Class

Discussion Leader: Robert Britt-Mills; rbritmi@yahoo.com

United Church Tallahassee

1834 Mahan Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32308

Saturday afternoon 3-5; November 2nd through June 6th

Books suggested by IBRAM X. KENDI who is a contributing editor at *The Atlantic* and a professor and the director of The Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University. He is the National Book Award-winning author of *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* and *How to Be an Antiracist*. This antiracist syllabus is a first step. It is for people open to knowledge now, to changing themselves now, and the world.

Most often white people deny their racism, but when they don't, they instead claim ignorance. And they are believed because people commonly believe the fundamental villain in America's racist saga is ignorance. Racist power, however, is the fundamental villain in America's racial saga is racist power, so we must understand racist power and its policies and ideas.

This list of 17 nonfiction books on antiblack racism is introductory. The list includes the books I would read if I were beginning my journey today. Recent or enduring books. Books accessible to anyone. Books that primarily expose racist policies and ideas. Books that are ambitious and sweeping, mostly covering a long period or wide scope. The kinds of books that send us searching and learning and changing.

To get the most out of this class, I suggest, purchasing the first two books covering topic 1 and then one book from each of the following 5 topics. After the whole class has read and discussed the first two books, we will divide the class up into thirds and based on the topic reading list your group will be responsible for reading and presenting on one of the books.

I understand books are expensive and I have been mindful of cost when selecting the books for this class. The first two books cost \$28.43 and if you would select the most expensive book from topics 2-6 the cost would be less than \$75.00. I have included the book cost in this syllabus based on new paperback books from Amazon.

Another helpful aspect of the class will be for people to keep a journal to record insights, questions and personal reactions to the books you will be reading and to notate highlights from the books other groups will be presenting on which will help during class discussion times.

Topic 1. Definitions of *racist* and *anti-racist*: Nov 2-Nov 16th

Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*. \$16.20 (2 weeks) Nov 2nd & 9th

Robin DiAngelo's *White Fragility*. \$12.23 Nov 16th

Topic 2. Memoirs: Dec 7th-Jan 11th

James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time* \$12.56. Dec 7th

Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* \$6.21 Dec 14th

Malcolm X's *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*— \$5.00 Jan 11th

Topic 3. Slavery & convict leasing & police violence: Jan 18th-Feb 22nd

Edward Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told* \$13.91. (3 weeks) Jan 18th & Feb 1st

Douglas A. Blackmon's *Slavery by Another Name* \$13.66 (2 weeks) Feb 8th & Feb 15th

Wesley Lowery's *They Can't Kill Us All* \$9.48. (2 weeks) Feb 22th

Topic 4. Mass incarceration: Feb 29th-Mar 14th

Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* \$16.42. Feb 29th

James Forman's *Locking Up Our Own*. \$7.07. Mar 7th

Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy* \$8.42. Mar 14th (Being made into a movie!)

Topic 5. Segregation, Civil Rights and Human Rights: Mar 21th-Apr 25th

Richard Rothstein's *The Color of Law* \$12.20. (2 weeks) Mar 21st & Mar 28

Jeanne Theoharis's *A More Beautiful & Terrible History* \$8.46. (2 weeks) Apr 4th & 11th

Paula J. Giddings's *When and Where I Enter* \$16.99. (2 weeks) Apr 18th & 25th

Topic 6. Health, Housing and Voting: May 2th-June 6th

Harriet A. Washington's *Medical Apartheid* \$13.66. (2 weeks) May 2nd & 9th

Matthew Desmond's *Evicted* \$11.88. (2 weeks) May 16th & 23th

Ari Berman's *Give Us the Ballot* \$14.84. (2 weeks) May 30th & June 6th