

HSTAA 230

RACE & POWER IN AMERICA

1861 - 1940

Summer Full Term 2025 | Mon/Wed 1:10 PM – 3:20 PM

Ari Forsyth, Instructor (DIV), (SSc)

Beginning in the aftermath of the Civil War, this interactive lecture course explores over half a century of historical power struggles that (re)shaped race in the United States.



Vaudeville actress Aida Overton Walker

Covering:

- Birthright citizenship
- Black freedom + Jim Crow
- Settler colonial assimilation + Indigenous resistance
- Mass migration + growth of cities
- Origins of modern policing
- Progressive reform + the rise of the welfare state
- Creation of US Border Patrol + immigration quotas
- Overseas imperialism in Asia, Latin America, & the Caribbean
- The American eugenics movement

PLUS historical legacies of Black freedom + anti-imperialist movements and their impact on ongoing struggles for racial justice and social equality

DISCOVER what new ideas about race helped reconstruct the (modern) United States empire and nation

INVESTIGATE how legal, scientific, and cultural representations of race changed over time

EXPLORE how race shaped the economic activities, social interactions, and self-understandings of ordinary people

IDENTIFY intersections between race + class + gender + sexuality + disability.

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