

Race in Nineteenth Century America

HST 496 (#22269052)

M W / 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Professor Jeffrey Fortney



Were the Irish always considered white? Why did some African Americans and American Indians hold slaves? Why did some slaves look white? Most Americans think about race in terms of black and white. In History 496 "Race in the Nineteenth Century" we will break down that dichotomy and examine the historical and social construction of racial identities and racism during the nineteenth century. Together, we will complicate our understandings of race in the United States. In the first half of class, we will read a handful of groundbreaking books that elucidate various racial trends across regions and throughout the 19th century, as well as complimentary primary documents. In the second half, you will choose your own research topic pertaining to race and complete an in-depth, capstone level research paper.



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