Course Description: This course explores the causes and consequences of racial inequality in the American city. It details the impact of slavery, racial segregation, and ethnically-based demographic shifts on the development of the modern city. In this course we will compare media examples (films, photography, advertisements, web content, literature, etc.) with selected readings in urban studies and cultural studies to tease out the connections between our experience of media and our experience of urban life. Each week is structured around a different theme – migration, alienation, freedom, gender, sexuality, immigration, poverty, surveillance, gentrification, etc. We will explore various debates and proposals around the imperative to create more socially just and sustainable cities, with an emphasis on both theory and practice. Many of the course readings and topics are drawn from the field of urban studies, but some are also taken from the fields of urban geography, urban history, urban planning, and urban sociology. Contact William Daniels at dbwilli@bgsu.edu for more information.