



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

Political Economy Reading Program

Race and Economics

Participants examine the causes and consequences of discrimination, the economics of slavery, and the intellectual history of race in economics. Key questions include:

- Why do racial disparities in income and wealth persist?
- What role can markets and government policies play in addressing those disparities?
- How did slave labor contribute to U.S. economic history?

Reading Schedule

Session 1 – Race in Economic Thought

- Levy, David M. and Sandra J. Peart. (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part I. Economics, Religion and Race in the 19th Century.” *Econlib*. January 22. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal.html>.
- ——— (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part II. Brotherhood, Trade, and the Negro Question.” *Econlib*. March 26. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal2.html>.
- ——— (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part III. The Governor Eyre Controversy.” *Econlib*. June 4. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal3.html>.
- ——— (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part IV. Paternalism, Hierarchy, and Markets.” *Econlib*. August 27. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal4.html>.
- ——— (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part V. Parasite Economics and Market Exchange.” *Econlib*. December 17. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal5.html>.
- ——— (2001). “The Secret History of the Dismal Science. Part VI. Eugenics and the Amoralization of Economics.” *Econlib*. December 17. Accessed at <https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/LevyPeartdismal6.html>.
- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “Classical Liberalism, Social Justice, and Black America.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 1-26.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

Political Economy Reading Program

Race and Economics

Session 2 – Slavery and Capitalism

- Desmond, Matthew. (2021). “Capitalism.” In N. Hannah-Jones, C. Roper, I. Silverman, and J. Silverstein (Eds.), *The 1619 Project*. New York, NY: One World. 165–192.
- Logan, Trevon. (2022). “American Enslavement and the Recovery of Black Economic History.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 36, No. 2. 81-98.
- Magness, Phillip W. (2020). “The Case for Retracting Matthew Desmond’s 1619 Project Essay.” In *The 1619 Project: A Critique*. Great Barrington, MA: American Institute for Economic Research. 55-67.
- Wright, Gavin. (2022). “Slavery and the Rise of the Nineteenth-Century American Economy.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 36, No. 2. 123-148.

Session 3 – Slavery and the American Founding

- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “Liberation Through Abolition: The Black American Pro-Constitutional Tradition.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 27-63.
- Hannah-Jones, Nikole. (2021). “Democracy.” In N. Hannah-Jones, C. Roper, I. Silverman, and J. Silverstein (Eds.), *The 1619 Project*. New York, NY: One World. 7-43.
- Magness, Phillip W. (2020). “The Anti-Capitalist Ideology of Slavery.” In *The 1619 Project: A Critique*. Great Barrington, MA: American Institute for Economic Research. 15-22.
- ——— (2020). “How Capitalist-Abolitionists Fought Slavery.” 23-29.

Session 4 – Freedom of Movement and Equal Protection (Political Economy Reading Program Summit)

- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “Liberation Through the Freedom to Move.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 64-84.
- ——— (2022). “No Liberation without the Equal Protection of the Law.” 85-116.
- Magness, Phillip W. (2020). “A Comment on the ‘New’ History of American Capitalism.” In *The 1619 Project: A Critique*. Great Barrington, MA: American Institute for Economic Research. 69-100.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

Political Economy Reading Program

Race and Economics

Session 5 – Economic Freedom and Civil Rights

- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “Liberation Through Business.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 150-194.

Session 6 – Labor Markets

- Harford, Tim. (2009). “The Dangers of Rational Racism.” In *The Logic of Life: The Rational Economics of an Irrational World*. New York, NY: Random House Trade Paperbacks. 130-148.
- Leonard, Thomas C. (2016). “Excluding Immigrants and the Unproductive.” In *Illiberal Reformers: Race, Eugenics, and American Economics in the Progressive Era*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 141-168.
- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “No Liberation without Freedom of Contract.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 195-229

Session 7 – Segregation

- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “No Liberation without Ownership.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 230-264.
- Kruse, Kevin M. (2021). “Traffic.” In N. Hannah-Jones, C. Roper, I. Silverman, and J. Silverstein (Eds.), *The 1619 Project*. New York, NY: One World. 405-420.
- Rothstein, Richard. (2014). “The Making of Ferguson: Public Policy at the Root of Its Troubles.” *Economic Policy Institute*. October 15. Accessed at <http://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/>.
- Blumgart, Jake. (2021). “Redlining Didn’t Happen Quite the Way We Thought It Did.” *Governing: The Future of States and Localities*. September 21. Accessed at <https://www.governing.com/context/redlining-didnt-happen-quite-the-way-we-thought-it-did>.

Session 8 – Indigenous Economies I

- Miles, Tiya. (2021). “Dispossession.” In N. Hannah-Jones, C. Roper, I. Silverman, and J. Silverstein (Eds.), *The 1619 Project*. New York, NY: One World. 135-164.
- Anderson, Terry L. and Kathy Ratté. (2022). “Traditions of Wealth Creation.” In *Renewing Indigenous Economies*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press. 1-28.
- ——— (2022). “Tribal Economies under Colonialism.” 29-46.



**FREE MARKET
INSTITUTE**

TEXAS TECH
Research & Innovation

Political Economy Reading Program

Race and Economics

Session 9 – Indigenous Economies II

- Anderson, Terry L. and Kathy Ratté. (2022). “Property Rights and Governance.” In *Renewing Indigenous Economies*. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press. 47-68.
- ——— (2022). “Creating a Positive Investment Climate.” 69-102.
- Frye, Dustin and Dominic P. Parker. (2021). “Indigenous Self-Governance and Development on American Indian Reservations.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 111. 233-37.

Session 10 – Conclusion

- Ferguson, Rachel S. and Marcus M. Witcher. (2022). “Epilogue on All the Controversial Stuff.” In *Black Liberation Through the Marketplace: Hope, Heartbreak, and the Promise of America*. New York, NY: Emancipation Books. 347-369.
- Kendi, Ibram X. (2019). “Class.” In *How to Be an Antiracist*. New York, NY: One World. 151-165.
- Martin, Adam G. (2017). “The New Egalitarianism.” *The Independent Review*, Vol. 22, No. 1. 15-25.