

**Reading Tips and Study Questions**  
**CLASS 13**

**Required reading**

- Hwang, Jackelyn and Robert Sampson. 2014. Divergent Pathways of Gentrification: Racial Inequality and the Social Order of Renewal in Chicago Neighborhoods. *American Sociological Review* 2014 79(4): 726-751.
- Desmond, Matthew. 2012. Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty. *American Journal of Sociology* 118: 88-133.
- Pattillo, Mary. 2013. Housing: Commodity versus Right. *Annual Review of Sociology*: 509-31.
- Hartman, Chester. 2006. "The Case for a Right to Housing." *Shelterforce Online*, Issue #148, Winter 2006.
- Godsil, Rachel, Olatunde Johnson, Lance Freeman and Brad Lander. 2014. [Neighborhood Gentrification](#).

**Discussion questions**

1. How do we define gentrification? By investment? By displacement? By neighborhood change? By race, by class? Something else? What role does public policy play in facilitating or limiting gentrification? Does gentrification have any potential to mitigate residential segregation by income and race? Or only exacerbate it?
2. What is the relationship between housing and poverty? Between housing and racial inequality? Scholars focus disproportionately on the dynamics of public or subsidized housing, but the majority of renters are in the private rental market. What effect if any does this mismatch of scholarship and reality have on policy? What does Desmond's article suggest for housing policy?
3. Is housing a commodity or a right? Can it be both? What are the contours of a right to housing? Is there a path to a broad recognition of a right to housing in the United States? How do different academic/disciplinary boundaries contribute to scholars' and advocates' different conceptions of housing?
4. How does Hartman's conception of housing compare with the 1949 Housing Act commitment to a decent home for everyone? What are the policy implications of the differences?

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11.401 Introduction to Housing, Community, and Economic Development  
Fall 2015

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