

SUMMER READING LIST FOR SOCIAL WORK MAJORS

F = fiction

S251 Voices of Poverty Assignment

Select one of the books below to read for the Voices of Poverty assignment. Please clear any other book for this assignment with me in advance.

After you have read the book, please write a review (no more than 4 pages) of the book describing the following:

How is life in poverty or in otherwise marginalized circumstances depicted?

How does the author describe poverty or other forms of marginalization, using what images? How did you react to that vision of the experience of living on the margins?

How has reading this book enriched your understanding of the stresses that poverty and marginalization produces and the resiliency of people to overcome some of the obstacles placed before them?

How "true" do you think this portrayal of poverty or marginalization is today or to the time in which the book was written?

How could this book help inform our current thinking about poverty and other forms of marginalization and the services needed to address this social welfare problem?

Make sure that you include a complete bibliographic citation on the first page of your review.

Agee, J. (1960). Let us now praise famous men: Three tenant families. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Ayala, V. (1996). Falling through the cracks: AIDS and the urban poor. Bayside, NY: Social Change Press.

Berck, J. (1992). No place to be: Voices of homeless children. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Byerly, V. (1986). Hard times cotton mill girls: Personal histories of womanhood and poverty in the South. Ithaca, NY: IIR Press, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University.

Crow Dog, M. (1990). Lakota woman. New York: G. Weidenfeld.

Cwayna, K. (1993). Knowing where the fountains are: Stories and stark realities of homeless youth. Deaconess Press.

Dodson, L.. (1998.) Don't call us out of name: The untold lives of women and girls in poor America.. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

- Edin, K. & Lein, L. (1997). Making ends meet: How single mothers survive welfare and low-wage work. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Ehrenreich, B. (2001). Nickel and dimed: On (not) getting by in America. New York: Henry Holt & Company.
- Giardina, D. (1987). Storming heaven. New York: Ivy Books. (novel set in coal mining country)
- Glasser, I. (1988). More than bread: Ethnography of a soup kitchen. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press.
- Good, P. (1968). The American serfs: A report on poverty in the rural south. New York: Ballantine Books.
- Hancock, L. (2002). Hands to work: The stories of three families racing the welfare clock. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.
- Harrington, M. (1964). The other America: Poverty in the United States. New York: Macmillan Company.
- Harrington, M. (1984). The new American poverty. New York: Penguin Books.
- Hull, J. (1990). Touching the rock: An experience of blindness. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Kotlowitz, A. (1991). There are no children here: The story of two boys growing up in the other America.. New York: Doubleday.
- Kozol, J. (1995). Amazing grace: The lives of children and the conscience of a nation. New York: Crown.
- Kozol, J. (1988). Rachel and her children: Homeless families in America. New York: Fawcett Columbine.
- Kozol, J. (2000). Ordinary resurrections: Children in the years of hope. New York: Perennial.
- Levine, E. (1994). Freedom's children: Young civil rights activists tell their own stories. New York: Avon.
- Lewis, O. (1959). Five families: Mexican case studies in the culture of poverty. New York: Basic Books.

- Liebow, E. (1993). Tell them who I am: The lives of homeless women. New York: Free Press.
- McCall, N. (1994). Makes me wanna holler: A young black man in America. New York: Vintage Books.
- Morrison, T. (1993). The bluest eye. Ohio: Plume.
- Nasaw, D. (1985). Children of the city: At work and at play. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Nietzke, A. (1994). Natalie on the street. Corvallis, OR: Calyx Books.
- Polakow, V. (1993). Lives on the edge: Single mothers and their children in the other America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Rank, M. (1994). Living on the edge: The realities of welfare in America. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Riis, J. A. (1971). How the other half lives: Studies among the tenements of New York. New York: Dover.
- Rubio, G. (1999). Icy Sparks. New York, NY: Penguin Group.
- Rubin, L. (1976). Worlds of pain: Life in the working class family. New York: Basic Books.
- Schein, V. (1995). Working from the margins: Voices of mothers in poverty. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Sheehan, S. (1975). A welfare mother. New York: Mentor Book, New American Library.
- Terkel, S. (1986). Hard times: An oral history of the great depression. New York: Pantheon Books.
- Toth, J. (1993). The mole people: Life in the tunnels beneath New York City. Chicago: Chicago Review.
- Wagner, D. (1993). Checkerboard Square: Culture and resistance in a homeless community. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- White, M. (1994). Stranger at the gate. New York: Simon & Schuster. (biography of a gay man)
- Zucchino, D. (1997). Myth of the welfare queen. New York: Scribner.

- Chandler, K. 1995. *Passages of Pride*. New York: New York Times Books.
- Cofer, Judith Ortiz. 1990. *Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood*. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press.
- Crow Dog, M. and Erdoes, R. 1990. *Lakota Women*. New York: G. Weidenfeld.
- Fadiman, A. 1997. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- Feagin, J. 1996. *The Agony of Education: Black Students and White Colleges and Universities*. New York: Routledge.
- Feagin, J. and Hernan, V. 1995. *White Racism: The Basics*. New York: Routledge.
- Frosh, M. and Soto, G. 1994. *Coming of Age in America: A Multicultural Anthology*. New York: The New Press.
- Feinberg, L. 1993. *Stone Butch Blues*. Ithaca: Firebrand Books. (transsexual and lesbian)
- Hammerschlag, C. 1988. *The Dancing Healers: A Doctor's Journey of Healing with Native Americans*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco.
- Hart, Elva Trevino. 1999. *Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child*. Tempe AZ: Bilingual Press.
- Highwater, Jamake. Any of this author's novels.
- Hurston, Zora Neale. 1969. *Dust Tracks on a Road*. New York: Arno Press.
- Jacobs, Leo. 2000. *Deaf Adult Speaks Out*. Washington, D.C. Gallaudet University Press.
- Kingsolver, B. 1990. *Animal Dreams*. New York Harper Collins.
- Kotlowitz, A. 1991. *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*. New York: Anchor Books.
- Kozol, J. 1995. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Kozol, J. 1991. *Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Lee, Gus. *China Boy*.

Mathabene, M. 1989. *Kaffir Boy in America: An Encounter with Apartheid*. New York: Scribner's.

Mean, R. 1995. *Where White Men Fear to Tread*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

McBride, J. 1997. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. New York: Riverhead Books.

Montejo, Victor. 1987. *Testimony: Death of a Guatemalan Village*. Willimantic, CT: Curbstone Press.

Morales, Aurora Levine and Morales, Rosario. 1986. *Getting Home Alive*. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books.

Rosier, K. B. 2000. *Mothering Inner City Children*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Santos, J.P. (1999). *Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation*. NY: Viking.

St. Jean, Y. and Feagin, J. 1998. *Double Burden: Black Women and Everyday Racism*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Tatum, B. 1997. "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" and *Other Conversations About Race*. New York: Basic Books.

Wolff, T. 1990. *This Boy's Life: A Memoir*. New York Perennial Library. New York: (Anglo male autobiography.)

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (growing up poor)

And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic by Randy Shilts, 1988 (AIDS)

Angela's Ashes (growing up poor)

Bastard Out of Carolina by D. Allison, 1993 (child sexual abuse, poverty, rural community)

Bed Number Ten (a woman who spent 11 months in an ICU)

Beyond the Four Corners of the World: A Navajo Woman's Journey by E. Benedek, 1994. New York: Knopf.

Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee by D. Brown, 1971. . New York: Rinehart and Winston.

(F) Daddy was a Number Runner by Louise Meriwether (a 12-year-old growing up in Harlem in the 1930s)

Down These Mean Streets by Piri Thomas (growing up Puerto Rican in New York City), first published in 1967. Re-released in 1997.

My Own Country: A Doctor's Story by Abraham, 1995. Verghese (A young Indian physician practicing in a remote town in Tennessee when HIV first emerged there in 1985.)

Nickle and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich, 2002

Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family by Jean J. Beard and Peggy Gillespie. New Press, 2002

Portrait in Sepia by I. Allenda. To be Published in English in October 2001.

(F) Push by Sapphire (a victim of child abuse, growing up poor, angry, illiterate, and fat)

Rose's Story by Rose (the mental health and child welfare systems)

Tender Mercies by (child abuse investigator)

The Color Purple (growing up poor)

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman (tragic clashes between the traditional culture of a Hmong family with a child who has epilepsy and modern American medical care)

When I am An Old Woman I Will Wear Purple with a Red Hat that Doesn't Go

Website: Voices from the Gaps) <http://voices.cla.umn.edu/mewsite/index.htm>
(women authors and reviews)

Some of the books are literature/novels. Others are sociological writings using qualitative research, participation observation, or narratives. Still others are historical documentaries. This list is a work in progress so I welcome new additions. If you want to use a book that is not on this list, discuss it with me first. It is helpful to read a book about the same basic cultural group that you are studying for your project.

If any of the books are on audiotape, that is an acceptable way to “read” your piece.