

# CULTURE KEEPERS MINI LESSONS



BY: SYNATRA SMITH, PH.D.

## Residential Segregation

**1. Watch Dr. Michael Eric Dyson's discussion of class versus race.**

**2. Consider the following:**

a. William Julius Wilson (1978) argues class is a more decisive factor than race for educated Black people who had more equality due to Civil Rights Movement legislation.

b. Mary Patillo (2005) responds with "Residential segregation varies by class for African Americans. Mobility choices and outcomes for middle-class Blacks have come to favor non-Black, non-poor neighborhoods. As a result, class segregation among African Americans has increased"

c. Bart Landry and Kris Marsh explain, "because of economic residential segregation, wealthier Blacks can spatially separate from poor Blacks, but because of racial residential segregation, middle-class Blacks remain largely segregated from white" (2011:386). In other words, Black middle class neighborhoods tend to be a buffer between white middle class and Black working class neighborhoods, possibly due to white flight.

**3. Discuss the roles of class and race in determining outcomes for people of color.**

**4. Additional Resources**

a. Still Processing podcast episode: You Can't Code Your Way Out of Racism

b. Mary Patillo's article in the Annual Review of Sociology: Black Middle-Class Neighborhoods (2005)

c. The Declining Significance of Race (1978) by William Julius Wilson

d. Bart Landry and Kris Marsh's article in the Annual Review of Sociology: The Evolution of the New Black Middle Class (2011)

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## Other Chocolate Cities Lessons

1. The FX Series Atlanta presents a nuanced view of young Black male adulthood in Atlanta, GA. This lesson explores the notion of Atlanta as a Black Mecca, to which it is often referred, and interrogates the gaze as a show that presents a black male perspective for Black male (and other) consumption.
2. The Netflix series Marvel's Luke Cage tells the story of a bulletproof Black superhero living in Harlem. This lesson discusses such topics as respectability politics, African American culture as it relates to the Harlem Renaissance and Hip Hop, gender, and violence. It explores the question, "Why is a hoodie dawning, bullet-proof, uber strong, Black superhero significant to the Black community today? What kinds of opportunities and/or challenges does such a hero raise for the Black community?"
3. The "LA to the Bay" lesson explores a variety of media produced around issues in Los Angeles, CA and the San Francisco Bay Area. It includes an examination of Frank Ocean's musical commentary of the Ladera Heights community, which he calls the "Black Beverly Hills," the 2015 coming of age film Dope and its commentary on aesthetic and intersectionality, and a BuzzFeed video the presents gentrification in San Francisco and the relationship between communities of color and and the technology industry.
4. The New Orleans lesson exists in two parts. Part 1 presents Beyonce's Formation music video and other performances of music from her Lemonade album as not only a presentation of Black southern femininity, but also Afro-syncretic religions.
5. The New Orleans Lesson Part 2 places Solange's A Seat at the Table album in conversation with the OWN series Queen Sugar, executive produced by Oscar-award winning filmmaker, Ava DuVernay. Both of these segments discuss African American resilience and encourage students to incorporate self-empowerment into their own work.

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