

## **Best Books to Read and Films to Watch on Race Right Now**

Curated by Allison Petrus-Wilkins – July 2020

**These materials are available** through AWPL. Please call the Help Desk at 986-1047, ext. 3 if you need assistance locating any of these items.

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***Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*** (2020)

Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.

***How To Be An Anti-Racist*** (2019)

Ibram X. Kendi

***White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People to Talk About Racism*** (2018)

Robin DiAngelo

***So You Want To Talk About Race?*** (2019)

Ijeoma Oluo

***Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*** (2017)

Ibram X. Kendi

***The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*** (2010)

Michelle Alexander

***Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*** (2019)

Brittany Cooper

***Between the World and Me*** (2015)

Ta-Nehisi Coates

***The End of White Politics: How to Heal Our Liberal Divide*** (2020)

Zerlina Maxwell

***I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*** (2018)

Austin Channing Brown

***White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*** (2017)

Carol Anderson

***Chokehold: Policing Black Men* (2018)**

Paul Butler

***Open Season: Legalized Genocide of Colored People* (2019)**

Ben Crump

***Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race* (2017)**

Renni Edo-Lodge

***Me and White Supremacy* (2020)**

Layla F. Saad

***Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing* (2017)**

Joy DeGruy

***The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2017)**

Richard Rothstein

***Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together In The Cafeteria?* (2017)**

Beverly Daniel Tatum

**Films**

- ***A Raisin in the Sun*** – Adapted from the 1959 play by Lorraine Hansberry; portrays a few weeks in the life of the African-American family, the Youngers, on the south side of Chicago. Following the death of their patriarch, they try to determine what to do with the substantial insurance payment they'll soon receive. AWPL owns a DVD of the 2008 made-for-television version of *A Raisin in the Sun*. It boasts an all-star cast: Sean “Diddy” Combs, Sanaa Lathan, Phylicia Rashad and Audra McDonald.
- ***Fences*** is a 2016 American period drama film starring, produced and directed by Denzel Washington and written by August Wilson, based on his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1985 play of the same name. Set in 1950's Pittsburgh, Troy Maxson is a sanitation worker who misses his chance to play in the big leagues and then prevents his son to fulfill his dream of meeting a college football recruiter.
- ***Loving*** is a 2016 American biographical film that tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the plaintiffs in the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia*, which invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

- ***The Loving Story*** (2011 HBO Documentary) - In 1958, Richard and Mildred Loving were arrested for violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation laws, eventually leading to a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision on interracial marriage. (Also available on Hoopla.)
- ***13<sup>th</sup>*** (Netflix documentary, 2016) – Director Ava DuVernay explores the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison population explosion with scholars, activists and politicians. (Free on Kanopy also.)
- ***I Am Not Your Negro: James Baldwin and Race in America*** (Netflix, 2016): narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, this documentary film examines race in America, synthesizing Baldwin's words with archival material. Based on the premise of Baldwin's unfinished manuscript of a book to have been titled *Remember This House*. (Free on Kanopy also.)
- ***The Green Book*** (2018) – Dr. Don Shirley is a world-class African-American pianist about to embark on a concert tour in the Deep South in 1962. In need of both a driver and protection, Shirley recruits Tony Lip, a tough-talking bouncer from an Italian-American neighborhood in the Bronx. Despite their differences, the two men soon develop an unexpected bond while confronting racism and danger in an era of segregation.