

AMST 334  
Urban America  
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY  
CAS 228  
T, F, 3:30 - 4:50  
Fall, 2008

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Week of April 8, 2008

For **Tuesday, April 8**

**Read,** in ***Isenberg***

Chapter 6: *The Hollow Prize?*, 203 - 254

Notes on the Readings:

Chapter 6:

- Chapter Six continues some of the themes of Chapter Three (especially the section following p. 107) and Chapter Five. To the degree that suburbanization was a response to integration (the idea of "white flight"), Downtown was abandoned by the very commercial forces which changed its identity in the first place. This may be the saddest chapter in the book, especially for those who lived through the turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s. If too much investment can hurt city areas, then so can disinvestment. We'll see some of the results of that here.
- Note the subtitle of the chapter: Black Buyers, Racial Violence, and the Riot Renaissance.
- Note too, that there are at least a few signs of hope in the concluding pages.

For **Friday, April 11**

**Read,** in ***Isenberg***

Chapter 7: Animated by Nostalgia, 255 - 311

Conclusion: "The Lights are Much Brighter There" 312 - 317

Though Chapter Seven mentions several examples of urban regeneration, it focuses most of its energy on a comparison of two seemingly similar attempts: Gas Light Square in St. Louis, and Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco. One succeeded, one failed, (and if you've eaten Ghirardelli

chocolate, then you know which did which). Knowing isn't explaining, however. So that's what your focus needs to be.

- What differentiated these two very similar attempts.
- Also, what characterizes the other successful attempts to reinvigorate downtown mentioned in this chapter. (One of them may be a favorite of many of you... Quincy Marketplace in Boston).