



RACE, EDUCATION, AND POVERTY: **THE WIRE**



MAX HUNTER, PhD

CHID 498 B | WINTER 15

MW 9:30-11:20

Preview seasons 1, 3, 4 prior to class

"THE WIRE IS DISSENT; IT ARGUES THAT OUR SYSTEMS ARE NO LONGER VIABLE FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF THE MOST, THAT AMERICA IS NO LONGER OPERATING AS A UTILITARIAN AND DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT. IF YOU ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THAT NOTION, YOU WON'T AGREE WITH SOME OF THE TONALITIES OF THE SHOW. I WOULD ARGUE THAT PEOPLE COMFORTABLE WITH THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES RIGHT NOW — AND THINKING THAT THE NATION AND ITS INSTITUTIONS ARE EQUIPPED TO RESPOND MEANINGFULLY TO THE PROBLEMS DEPICTED WITH SOME CARE AND ACCURACY ON 'THE WIRE' (WE REPORTED EACH SEASON FRESH, WE DID NOT WRITE SOLELY FROM MEMORY) — WELL, PERHAPS THEY'RE PLAYING WITH THE TUNING KNOBS WHEN THE BACK OF THE APPLIANCE IS IN FLAMES." —DAVID SIMON

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN ENGAGING A DISSENTING AND UNSETTLING VIEW ON THE TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC AND JOURNALISTIC PERSPECTIVES THAT ANALYZE AND DESCRIBE THE ISSUES OF RACE, IDENTITY, EDUCATION, AND POVERTY IN URBAN AMERICA, THEN CHID 480 IS THE COURSE FOR YOU. IN THIS COURSE, WE WILL USE THE WIRE (OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A MASTERPIECE OF AMERICAN TELEVISION) AND READINGS FROM DIVERSE ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVES INVESTIGATE THE CLEAVAGES IN NARRATIVES AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DISPARITIES IN RACIAL EXPERIENCES AND URBAN REALITIES.