

## **Race in the US**

AMH 5930

Tuesdays, periods 8-10 (3 pm – 6 pm)

Flint 13

Office hours: T-Th, 12-1 pm. and by appointment

Prof. Mitchell Hart

This seminar explores the history of racial thinking, law and policy in the United States.

### Texts:

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History*

Stephen Jay Gould, *The Mismeasure of Man*, second edition

Matthew Frye Jacobson, *Whiteness of a Different Color*

Noel Ignatiev, *How the Irish Became White*

M. Alison Kibler, *Censoring Racial Ridicule*

Gary Gerstle, *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*

Stefan Kuhl, *The Nazi Connection*

Clay Risen, *The Bill of the Century*

**Course Requirements:** Attendance is mandatory. This is a seminar, so your repeated absence will be noted and will directly affect your grade in the course. Active participation is required. That means you must do the reading on a regular basis and come prepared to discuss the assigned material. You are expected to come prepared to ask questions of the text, and to carry on a continuous discussion of the texts in relation to one another.

Each week, at least one member of the seminar will assume responsibility for leading the discussion about that week's assigned material. In that role, you will have carefully read the material (and ideally, extra material such as reviews of the assigned book) and come prepared to answer questions and lead discussions.

Again, the success of a seminar depends almost entirely on your active involvement and engagement with the material and with each other during the class. This is not an undergraduate lecture class; you cannot sit passively while others do the intellectual work for you.

**Seminar Paper:** Each of you will produce a 15-20 page essay on a topic to be agreed upon by you and me. This paper is intended to give you the opportunity to explore in depth a more specific issue or theme related to the seminar that is of particular interest to you. I suggest you start thinking right away about such a topic, identify it, and come and

Speak with me. Note that meeting with me individually to discuss your research is a mandatory part of the assignment.

This essay will demonstrate your ability to do historical research and write a critical historical essay at the advanced graduate level.

**A draft of your essay, emailed to me as a Word document (not a pdf) is due no later than November 16** (you may, of course, hand in a draft earlier than that, and you will therefore have more time to revise it). I will read it, comment on it, and you will then revise it, taking into account my criticisms and suggestions.

The final version of your essay is due in my email no later than Dec. 6. Again, if you can hand it in to me earlier than this, that would be greatly appreciated. However, please note: No later essays will be accepted, and no incompletes will be given.