

Dr. J. Adler
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Spring, 2021

Office hours: Mon. 10:30-
11:30; Wed. 7:30-9:30;
and by appointment

AMH 3931:

RACE AND CRIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Required Texts:

Winthrop Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*
Richard Dugdale, *The Jukes*
David Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
William Tuttle, *Race Riot*
David Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
Alice Goffman, *On the Run*

Course Requirements:

This course will examine the relationship between race and crime in American history. It will explore the ways in which race relations have influenced patterns of crime and trends in criminal justice during the last four centuries as well as how ideas about crime have affected American race relations and how ideas about race have affected American criminal justice. The course will devote particular attention to the historical sources of modern racial disparities in policing, incarceration, and capital punishment. A mid-semester take-home examination, a short research paper, and an end-of-semester take-home examination will be required. The mid-semester take-home examination will be distributed on February 25 (and due on February 26) and will be worth 25 percent of your grade, and the research paper, due on April 2 (at the start of class), will be four pages in length and worth 25 percent of your grade. In addition, 25 percent of your course grade will be based on attendance, which is required, class participation, and a weekly assignment, which will entail a brief essay on a topic posted on Canvas during Friday classes and due at the end of the hour, beginning on January 29. To receive credit for attendance, students must participate in the Zoom class meetings, must keep the video feed enabled during class, and must submit the weekly assignment. (If computer problems or other challenges arise or pose particular difficulties for you, please discuss the issue with me at the start of the semester.) The end-of-semester take-home examination, distributed on April 20 (and due on April 21), will also be worth 25 percent of your grade. This course will employ UF's grading scale (A=4.0; A-=3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.0; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C=2.0; C-=1.67; D+=1.33; D=1.0; D-=0.67; E=0.0). Students cannot pass AMH 3931 unless they submit both take-home examinations and the research paper, and there will be no make-up examinations or extensions, except in cases of medical emergencies. Anyone requiring special accommodations must register with the Dean of Students Office and discuss his or her particular needs with me during the first three weeks of the semester. Students must conform to the university's conduct policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be reviewed at www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/. Finally, students are expected to provide professional feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on giving this feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.a.ufl.edu/students/>. Students

will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and the course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments

1. Jan. 11, 13, 15 Implicit Bias and Criminal Justice in American History
Reading Assignment: <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/iat/> (Race Test)
2. Jan. 20, 22 Race and the Law in Colonial America
Reading Assignment: Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*, chapter 1
3. Jan. 25, 27, 29 Slavery and Criminal Justice in Early America
Reading Assignment: Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*, chapters 2-15
4. Feb. 1, 3, 5 The Social Construction of Deviance in Early Nineteenth-Century America
No Reading Assignment
5. Feb. 8, 10, 12 Race and Violence in the Late Nineteenth-Century South
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
6. Feb. 15, 17, 19 Scientific Racism
Reading Assignment: Dugdale, *The Jukes*
7. Feb. 22, 24, 26 Ethnicity, Race, and Criminal Justice in Industrial America
No Reading Assignment
8. Mar. 1, 3, 5 Racial Conflict in the Early Twentieth-Century North
Reading Assignment: Tuttle, *Race Riot*
9. Mar. 8, 10, 12 Race and a Crime Panic in Interwar America
No Reading Assignment
10. Mar. 15, 17, 19 Law & Order
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
11. Mar. 22, 24, 26 Social Disorder in the Late Twentieth-Century City
No Reading Assignment
12. Mar. 29, 31, Apr. 2 The Politics of Crime in Post-Industrial America
No Reading Assignment
13. Apr. 5, 7, 9 Mass Incarceration
No Reading Assignment
14. Apr. 12, 14, 16 Policing the Modern City

Reading Assignment: Goffman, *On the Run*

15. Apr. 19, 21

Race and Social Justice in the Early Twenty-First Century
No Reading Assignment