

Dr. J. Adler  
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Spring, 2021

Office hours: Wed. 8:25-  
9:25; Fri. 10:30-11:30;  
and by appointment

## AMH 3931:

### RACE AND CRIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY

#### Required Texts:

Jennifer Eberhardt, *Biased*  
Winthrop Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*  
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 and assumptions about race 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. The course will devote particular attention to the historical sources of modern racial disparities in policing, incarceration, and capital punishment. AMH 3931 will also trace the development of race-based implicit bias and consider the impact of critical-race perspectives on American legal institutions. 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 17 (and due on February 18) and will be worth 25 percent of your grade, and the research paper, due on April 1 (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 28. 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/](http://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.aa.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/>.

#### Zoom Links and Passcodes:

Mondays: 913 2031 3706 (class meeting); 473413 (passcode)

Wednesdays: 960 7513 2682 (class meeting); 190615 (passcode)

Fridays: 990 2171 8760 (class meeting); 141187 (passcode)

Office hours on Wednesdays: 978 2930 5775; 917480 (passcode)

Office hours on Fridays 941 3595 6209; 900805 (passcode)

#### Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments

1. Jan. 5, 7                      Implicit Bias and Criminal Justice in American History  
Reading Assignment: <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/iat/> (Race Test); Eberhardt, *Biased*
2. Jan. 10, 12, 14              Race and the Law in Colonial America  
Reading Assignment: Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*, chapter 1
3. Jan. 19, 21                    Slavery and Criminal Justice in Early America  
Reading Assignment: Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*, chapters 2-15
4. Jan. 24, 26, 28                The Social Construction of Deviance in the Early Nineteenth Century  
No Reading Assignment
5. Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4              Race, Crime, and Violence in the Late Nineteenth-Century South  
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
6. Feb. 7, 9, 11                  Scientific Racism  
No Reading Assignment
7. Feb. 14, 16                    Ethnicity, Race, and Criminal Justice in Industrial America  
No Reading Assignment
- Feb. 18                              Mid-Term Examination
8. Feb. 21, 23, 25                Racial Conflict in the Early Twentieth-Century North  
Reading Assignment: Tuttle, *Race Riot*
9. Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 4              Race, Policing, and a Crime Panic in Interwar America  
No Reading Assignment
10. Mar. 7, 9, 11                  Spring Break (no class meetings)  
No Reading Assignment

11. Mar. 14, 16, 18      Law & Order in Late Twentieth-Century America  
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
12. Mar. 21, 23, 25      Social Disorder in the Late Twentieth-Century City  
No Reading Assignment
13. Mar. 28, 30, Apr 1    The Politics of Crime in Post-Industrial America  
No Reading Assignment
14. Apr. 4, 6, 8          Mass Incarceration  
No Reading Assignment
15. Apr. 11, 13, 15      Race, Policing, and Crime Control in the Modern City  
Reading Assignment: Goffman, *On the Run*
16. Apr. 18                Social Justice, Critical Race Theory, and the U.S. Constitution  
No Reading Assignment
- Apr. 20                    End-of-Semester Examination