

Dr. J. Adler
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Spring, 2023

Zoom office hours: Wed.
8:30-9:25; Fri. 10:30-
11:30; & 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*
Stefan Kühl, *The Nazi Connection*
David Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
Rosa Brooks, *Tangled Up in Blue*

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 23 (and due on February 24) and will be worth 25 percent of your course grade, and the research paper, due on April 7 (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 February 3. 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 25 (and due on April 26), 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.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: 921 8551 7358 (class meeting); 520 168 (passcode); 11:45-12:35

Wednesdays: 976 3327 5774 (class meeting); 024 505 (passcode); 11:45-12:35

Fridays: 962 6004 3870 (class meeting); 835 720 (passcode); 11:45-12:35

Office hour on Wednesdays: 964 5260 7982; 002 598 (passcode); 8:30-9:25

Office hour on Fridays: 987 8467 6864; 051 168 (passcode); 10:30-11:30

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments

1. Jan. 9, 11, 13 Implicit Bias and Criminal Justice in American History
Reading Assignment: <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/iat/> (Race Test); Eberhardt, *Biased*
2. Jan. 18, 20 Race and the Law in Colonial America
Reading Assignment: Jordan, *The White Man's Burden*
3. Jan. 23, 25, 27 Immigration and Criminality in the Mid-Nineteenth Century
No Reading Assignment
4. Jan. 30. Feb. 1, 3 Race, Crime, and Violence in the Late Nineteenth-Century South
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
5. Feb. 6, 8, 10 Scientific Racism
No Reading Assignment
6. Feb. 13, 15, 17 Migration and Criminal Justice in Industrial America
No Reading Assignment
7. Feb. 20, 22 Racial Segregation and Violence in the Early Twentieth-Century North
No Reading Assignment:

Feb. 24 Mid-Term Examination (no class meeting)
8. Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3 Race, Policing, and Public Policy in Interwar America
Reading Assignment: Kühl, *The Nazi Connection*
9. Mar. 6, 8, 10 The Civil Rights Movement, Racial Justice, and the Warren Court
No Reading Assignment
10. Mar. 13, 15, 17 Spring Break (no class meetings)
No Reading Assignment

11. Mar. 20, 22, 24 Law & Order in Late Twentieth-Century America
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
12. Mar. 27, 29, 31 Social Disorder in the Late Twentieth-Century City
No Reading Assignment
13. Apr 3, 5, 7 The Politics of Crime in Post-Industrial America
No Reading Assignment
14. Apr. 10, 12, 14 Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice and Mass Incarceration
No Reading Assignment
15. Apr. 17, 19, 21 Policing, Race, and Crime Control in the Modern City
Reading Assignment: Brooks, *Tangled Up in Blue*
16. Apr. 24 Social Justice, Critical Race Theory, and the U.S. Constitution
No Reading Assignment
- Apr. 26 End-of-Semester Examination (no class meeting)