

Dr. J. Adler
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Spring, 2024

Zoom office hours: Tues.
11:40-12:30; Thurs. 8:30-
9:25 and by appointment

AMH 3931: RACE AND CRIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Required Texts:

Jennifer Eberhardt, *Biased*
David Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
Stefan Kühl, *The Nazi Connection*
David Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
Alice Goffman, *On the Run*
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 profiling and 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 21 (and due on February 22) and will be worth 25 percent of your course grade, and the research paper, due on April 4 (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 1. 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 22 (and due on April 23), 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:

Tuesday classes: 926 5556 7575; passcode 783 545

Thursday classes: 913 3806 6077; passcode 072 814

Office hour on Tuesdays (11:40-12:30): 998 9264 9316; passcode 075 555

Office hour on Thursdays (8:30-9:25): 937 4148 8927; passcode 440 180

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments

1. Jan. 9, 11 The Neurophysiology of Racial Profiling
Reading Assignment: <http://www.understandingprejudice.org/iat/> (Race Test); Eberhardt, *Biased*
2. Jan. 16, 18 Race and the Law in Early America
No Reading Assignment
3. Jan. 23, 25 An Invasion from Abroad in the Mid-Nineteenth Century
No Reading Assignment
4. Jan. 30. Feb. 1 White Supremacy in the Late Nineteenth-Century South
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
5. Feb. 6, 8 Scientific Racism
No Reading Assignment
6. Feb. 13, 15 Immigrants, Race, and Criminal Justice in Industrial America
No Reading Assignment
7. Feb. 20 Racial Violence in the Early Twentieth-Century North
No Reading Assignment:

Feb. 22 Mid-Term Examination (no class meeting)
8. Feb. 27, Feb. 29 Race, Policing, and Public Policy in Interwar America
Reading Assignment: Kühl, *The Nazi Connection*
9. Mar. 5, 7 Civil Rights and the Warren Court
No Reading Assignment
10. Mar. 12, 14 Spring Break (no class meetings)
No Reading Assignment
11. Mar. 19, 21 Law & Order in Late Twentieth-Century America
Reading Assignment: Oshinsky, *Capital Punishment on Trial*
12. Mar. 26, 28 The Politics of Crime in Post-Industrial America

- No Reading Assignment
13. Apr 2, 4 Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice
Reading Assignment: Goffman, *On the Run*
14. Apr. 9, 11 Mass Incarceration in Modern America
No Reading Assignment
15. Apr. 16, 18 Social Justice, Critical Race Theory, and the U.S. Constitution
Reading Assignment: Brooks, *Tangled Up in Blue*
16. Apr. 23 End-of-Semester Examination (no class meeting)
No Reading Assignment