Race and the Law

Professor Tony Chase

Fall 2019 Syllabus

I. General

A. Course Information

1. Course Name: Race and the Law
2. Course Number: 6395
3. Number of Credits: 3
4. Meeting Times:
   - Monday 4:00 – 5:30 PM
   - Wednesday 4:00 – 5:30 PM
5. Location: 3 BLB

B. Professor Information

1. Name: Tony Chase
2. Office: 104F
3. Office Hours: By Appointment Only
4. Email Address: tchase@chasesource.com
5. Professor Chase’s Executive Assistant: Elaine Fiala
   - Email: efiala@uh.edu

II. Information about the Course

It is my expectation that students are prepared for each class offered throughout this course. Preparation is an essential requirement when in court as well as dealing with clients. Consider this course an opportunity to internalize that ethic.

You must attend 80% of your classes.
Class participation is very important. First year courses are like labs so participation in these courses are critical to your education. I invite everyone to take a strong role in class. Don't worry about looking silly. I will always try to answer each question respectfully.

The aims of the course are to have you think about the intersection of race and law, to encourage you to think about the role law has played upon race and the role race has played upon law and its impact.

III. **Course Requirements**

Students are responsible for being present pursuant to the administrative policy. Reading assignments are tailored to ensure a manageable amount of material for each class. The materials covered in the readings are the starting point - not the goal - of each day's class. The student who desires to master the materials and concepts must expect to engage in additional analysis and synthesis.

IV. **Reading Materials**

Please see attached topic schedule and reading list.

V. **UH CAPS Statement:**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the “Let's Talk” program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html
Week of August 19th – Introductory Introduction

Week of August 26th – Liberal vs. Critical Ideas of Race and Law
- Derrick A. Bell, Jr., “Brown v. Board of Education and the Interest Convergence Dilemma,” in Key Writings.

Week of September 2nd – No Class

Week of September 9th – Origins of Race: Critical Legal Studies and Critical Race Theory
- Kimberle Williams Crenshaw, “Race, Reform and Retrenchment: Transformation and Legitimation in Anti-Discrimination Law,” in Key Writings.

Week of September 16th – Abolitionism, Segregation, & Jim Crow

Week of September 23rd – No Class

Week of September 30th – Empire/ Nationalism and European National Origins Act

Week of October 14th – “Blackness” and Miscegenation


Week of October 21st – Postwar Ghetto and Suburb Making

- Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Ghetto is Public Policy,” The Atlantic.

Week of October 28th – New Directions: Unconscious Racism and Implicit Bias

- Charles Lawrence, “The Id, The Ego and Equal Protection: Reckoning with Unconscious Racism,” in Key Writings.

Week of November 4th – New Directions: Unconscious Racism and Implicit Bias (cont’d)

- Before class please complete the online demonstration test for racial bias. Go to www.implicit.harvard.edu. Select your language, then click through to the “Race (Black-White) IAT.”

Week of November 11th – New Directions: “Post Racial” America and New Theories on Structural Racial Inequality


Week of November 18th – New Directions: Race, Inequality and the Financial Crisis and Course Wrap-Up Discussion

- Emma Coleman Jordan and Angela P. Harris, Economic Justice: Race, Gender, Identity and Economics (2nd ed. 2011), Ch. 2, 73-126; Ch. 7, 542-563.
- Daria Roithmayr, Reproducing Racism, 38-48, 60-66, 93-107, 121-48. (Included in Readings Course Packet under November 4th Section)