RACE AND THE LAW
SYLLABUS

Professor Tiffany C. Graham
W 3:00-4:50
Fall Term 2009
Room 216

Office Number 239
Extension 2036
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Casebook

• JUAN F. Perea, ET AL., RACE AND RACES: CASES AND RESOURCES FOR A DIVERSE AMERICA, 2ND EDITION (WEST GROUP 2007)

Office Hours

• Tuesday – 8:30-10:00; 10:30-12:30
• Wednesday – 8:30-10:30; 1:00-2:00
• Thursday – 8:30-10:00; 10:30-12:30

Grading

There is no exam for this class. Instead, all students must write four (4) response papers relating to the reading assignments that are 4-5 pages in length (i.e. the papers must be at least four full pages in length). The response papers should not be descriptive accounts that summarize the readings; rather, they should focus on a relatively narrow issue that appears in one of the readings and analyze the issue in a fashion that demonstrates a genuine engagement with and understanding of the materials.

You may write the papers in response to any assignment that you choose, within a certain set of parameters. Each paper will be due at the end of each designated “block” of classes, and the topic of each paper must pertain to an issue or set of issues covered in each block. Papers are worth 25 points in total, and late papers will lose one point per late calendar day. The blocks are as follows:

Block 1: August 19-September 9
Block 2: September 16-October 7
Block 3: October 14-November 4
Block 4: November 11-December 1

Your first paper must be written during Block 1, must relate to one of the readings assigned during Block 1, and will be due at the latest by 5:00 p.m. on September 9. All
papers must be emailed to me.

Papers 2-4 must follow the same pattern, with final due dates of October 7, November 4, and December 1. If you do not understand these requirements, please contact me immediately so that I can clarify matters for you. Each paper will count as 25% of your grade.

**Reading Assignments**

Below are the assigned readings for the topics I expect to cover during the semester. Dates and readings are subject to change. All page numbers refer to the textbook. *Finally, you may skip all of the notes and questions that follow many of the readings.*

1. **INTRODUCTION**

   **August 19**
   *Topics: Defining Race and Racism*
   Read pp. 5-19, 35-40, 43 n. 4, 43-45, 62-65

2. **AFRICAN-AMERICANS**

   **A. ANTEBELLUM AND POSTBELLUM HISTORY**

   **August 26**
   *Topics: The Era of the Framers and Early Legal; Social Support for Slavery; The Civil War; Reconstruction; the Birth of Jim Crow*

   **B. THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS AFTERMATH**

   **September 2**
   *Topics: Civil Rights; Contemporary Racism*
   Read pp. 163-178

3. **NATIVE AMERICANS**

   **A. THE ERA OF CONQUEST; REMOVAL, REORGANIZATION**

   **September 9**
   *Topics: Conquest; Discovery; Federal Indian Policy; The Problem of Removal; The Cherokee Cases*
   Read pp. 179-214
B. REORGANIZATION, CONT.; SELF-DETERMINATION; CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

September 16
Topics: Shifting Status Relationships; Indian Gaming
Read pp. 214-231; 239-246

4. LATINOS/AS

A. MEXICAN-AMERICANS

September 23
Topics: War with Mexico; Segregation; Labor Problems
Read pp. 285-294; 296-299; 301-302; 303-308 (up to “Land Grant Adjudications”); 323-329; 329-355

B. PUERTO RICANS

September 30
Topics: Territorial Status; Citizenship; Commonwealth Status; Current Status of Puerto Ricans; Contemporary Experiences of Racism in the Broader Latino/a Community
Read pp. 356-396

5. ASIAN-AMERICANS

A. CHINESE-AMERICANS AND JAPANESE-AMERICANS

October 7
Topics: Early Experiences of Racism in the Chinese-American Community; Early Experiences of Racism Directed Toward the Japanese; Alien Land Laws; Citizenship
Read pp. 397-435

B. WWII AND JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT; CONTEMPORARY EXPERIENCE OF RACISM IN THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

October 14
Topics: WWII and Internment; Model-Minority Myth; Attribution of ‘Foreignness’; Violence
Read pp. 436-485
6. **WHITE-AMERICANS**

A. **DEFINITION OF ‘WHITENESS’; HOW THE IRISH, ITALIANS, AND JEWS ‘BECAME’ WHITE**

October 21
*Topic: Racial Formation and Transformation*
Read pp. 487-526

B. **CONCEPTIONS OF WHITE PRIVILEGE**

October 28
*Topics: White Transparency; the Normativity of ‘Whiteness’*
Read pp. 526-549

7. **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

November 4
*Topics: Expressive Freedom; the Problem of Hate Speech; Language; Cultural Identity; the English-Only Movement*
Read pp. 812-816; 841-847; 902-931

8. **GENDER, SEXUALITY**

November 11
*Topics: Gender and Sexuality, part I*
Read pp. 933-934; 939-952

November 18
*Topics: Gender and Sexuality, part II*
Read pp. 959-992

9. **POPULAR CULTURE**

November 25
*Topic: Popular Culture*
Read pp. 1035-1097