

Professor Samuel P. Stafford

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 5:30-8:30 PM

via Zoom and by appointment through link on Canvas Homepage  
352-273-2372 (Office)

Samson M. Fratello (TA)

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 8:30-9:20 AM

Will take place across from Starbucks on the 1st floor of Library West  
(or in a study room if requested)

Email: ta.racelaw24@gmail.com

Race, Law and the Constitution  
POS4624, Section 15598  
Room 207 Leigh Hall  
Period 1, MWF

### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This survey course addresses the rapidly shifting landscape of perceived rights/entitlements contained in the U.S. Constitution for minority/BIPOC/color groups in America. Recent political activity, governmental and media treatment have called into serious question how these groups are viewed and treated by law enforcement, the civil and/or criminal justice system and the detention industry in this country. With an emphasis on examining the historical and contemporary treatment of certain color groups in America, this survey course will provide exposure, rationale and historical knowledge of the perception and management of these ethnic/color groups by the current justice, law enforcement, social service and the detention institutions. The relevant experiences of Hispanic/LatinX Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans/First Peoples, African Americans, as well as various Immigrant groups will be examined, as time and course materials allow.

Although some aspects of the course will address societal treatment, economic and liberty concerns common to all of these minority groups, there will be a greater focus on the African American experience as a microcosmic laboratory to explore the central tenets of this course. By examining certain color groups' unique ethnic/cultural responses to initial and subsequent perception and treatment by governmental and economic institutions, it is hoped that a pragmatic "litmus test" can be fashioned to help the serious student appreciate what factors we have in common, and those that need healing & understanding.

*Note: This syllabus is a general outline of the course, but it is subject to change. Either the Professor or TA will let you know if modifications are made.*

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

This course fulfills the General Education requirements for the Gordon Rule Requirement. This means that the major writing assignments will amount to a total of 6000+ words, and that students will receive feedback so that they can improve their writing skills.

Upon completing the course students will be able to detail and understand how our great country continues to flourish. Analyze some of the cultural, political, economic and social barriers, and solutions. Examine the historical roots of laws fostering rights and protection. Learn about the history, impetus, evolution, and questions for cooperation.

## REQUIRED READINGS AND MATERIALS

In the Matter of Color, Race and the American Legal Process: The Colonial Period, A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. (Oxford Press, 1978)

Ethnic America, Sowell, (Harper Collins, 1981)

The Supreme Court, Race and Civil Rights, Abraham L. Davis and Barbara Luck Graham. (Sage Publications (1995) [or later/more recent Editions]

Mixed Race America and the Law, Kevin Johnson, (New York University Press, 2003)

Racism Without Racists, Bonilla-Silva, 2nd Edition (Rowman & Littlefield 2006) [or more recent Editions]

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, Michelle Alexander (The New Press, 2012)

Articles will be assigned throughout the semester as well. Students will be expected to access those readings online or by using the UF library catalog or via canvas, or hard-copy.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student will complete all required reading assignments and brief all assigned cases prior to each class meeting, AND be prepared to fully and cogently discuss the cases/readings at the next class.
2. Each student will be expected to read and thoroughly digest the Articles and the Amendments to the United States Constitution.

3. There will be two (2) major examinations: a cumulative Midterm and a cumulative Final Exam. These Exams will only be given during the semester. No exceptions.
4. There will be several announced **and** unannounced quizzes during the semester. These focus-quizzes, will be announced ahead of time, but cannot be made up or taken again.
5. There may be one class project during the semester. Each student will be required to participate and/or submit the project on time.
6. A long (27 pages) research paper will be assigned during the semester. This research paper must be turned in on time, or there will be a corresponding full letter grade reduction earned by the research paper for each calendar day the paper is late; **OR** the paper may **NOT** be accepted at all.
7. Due to the nature of the course, class attendance and participation is mandatory, and will count toward your final grade. There will be a heavy emphasis on student-professor interchange, as well as facilitated class discussions where we will learn from one another. Hence, you must be present to participate and learn.
8. Class participation/attendance, assigned research papers, (class project[s]), quizzes, etc. will reflect 35% of the student's final grade; the midterm will count for 25%; while the cumulative Final Examination will comprise 40% of the total grade in this course. See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/> for current University of Florida grading policies.
9. Each student has the individual responsibility to read, comprehend and fully comply with all procedural requirements of the course as listed in the Course Syllabus.
10. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Students have the responsibility to research and locate when the evaluation period opens. Each student must complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals.

### WRITING REQUIREMENTS

All assignments should be:

Written in standard English and demonstrate competence of capitalization, grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph structure.

Typed, with Times New Roman, 12pt. font, 1" margins.

Information with your name, date, and course, should be on the first page only or on a cover page.

All work must be properly documented, Students may use APA, MLA, Turabian, etc.

I will provide feedback on written assignments; the comments are intended to strengthen your writing skills. I evaluate on clarity, content, structure, and sources.

**Gordon Rule:** “The Writing Requirements (Gordon Rule) ensure students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.” This is a Gordon Rule course with a 6000 word writing requirement. Your writing will be evaluated, and you will receive feedback on assignments that are intended to fulfill this writing requirement. You will be evaluated based on grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization, of sources.

To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

#### EXAM DATES (TENTATIVE)

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Major Quiz #1 | February 7th (In Class)    |
| Midterm Exam  | March 6th (In Class)       |
| Final Exam    | April 30th (8:00-10:00 PM) |

#### ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Assignment #1 | Higginbotham: VII-XIV; 392-95;19-60; 61-99; 100-150  |
| Assignment #2 | Higginbotham: 151-215-266; 267-313   |
| Assignment #3 | Higginbotham: 313-54;356-68;371-389.   |
| Assignment #4 | Sowell: 3-14; 183-224;227-270  |
| Assignment #5 | Sowell: 120-160-161-201  |
| Assignment #6 | Sowell: 100-132; 273-296   |
| Assignment #7 | Johnson: 1-12; 13-27; 261-292; 405-430; 469-488<br>Davis & Graham: 115-161;217-272<br><br>First Batch of Cases |
| Assignment #8 | Johnson: 28-51; 53-70;71-92<br>Davis & Graham: 335-407   |

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Assignment #9  | Bonilla-Silva: 1-17; 177-198<br><br>Second Batch of Cases                              |
| Assignment #10 | Major Research Paper Assigned (Due on 4/26 @4PM)                                       |
| Assignment #11 | Bonilla-Silva: 131-150; 151-176; 177-206; 207-218, 219-228<br><br>Third Batch of Cases |
| Assignment #12 | Alexander: 1-19; 20-58; 236-251  |
| Assignment #13 | Bonilla-Silva: Chapters (9, 10, 6, 3)  |
| Assignment #14 | Alexander: 59-96; 97-139; 140-177  |
| Assignment #15 | Alexander: 178-220, 221-261, (140-177)   |

### GRADING SCALE

| A           | A-    | B+    | B     | B-    | C+    | C     | C-    | D+    | D     | D-    | E           |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| 90 or above | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-63 | 57-59 | 56 or below |

### ATTENDANCE POLICY AND CLASS EXPECTATIONS

While I will not take attendance every class meeting day, we will have regular assignments that you may not make up. Moreover, major quizzes, the midterm, and the final will cover both lectures and readings, and it is common for material in lectures not to come from readings. In short, if you miss class regularly, you will likely fail. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Undergraduate Catalog.

During class, students are expected both to silence phones and to refrain from using them. Laptops may be used for taking notes or other activities directly related to class.

UF ZOOM PRIVACY CONSENT STATEMENT (IF & When Applicable)

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

### ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with challenges or disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting our Get Started Page. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter and /or request with their instructor to discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### AI/SUPPLEMENTS: EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN

Any use, reference, inclusion, or reliance upon ChatGPT, Google BARD, Chatsonic, Microsoft Bing Chat, Github Copilot, Fusion Chat, YouChat, Law ChatGPT, Clearbrief, Case Text, any known or subsequently developed artificial intelligence (AI) supplements, as well as any similar type of unauthorized AI writing or research assistance/supplements, not mentioned here OR that may be invented during the semester, are EXPRESSLY prohibited and forbidden for use in this course. Any use, inclusion, indication, or infusion of any material from all of these or similar sources, will be viewed and considered by the professor as a class violation, and the offending student shall be immediately assessed for disciplinary action. Finally, the ability to remain in this course during the semester will be determined by the professor and University.

### ACADEMIC HONESTY

University policy requires that we remind you of the commonsense values embodied in the University Honor Code. We assume that you are all familiar with the policy on academic honesty. If you are not, it has been included below:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

A student cannot use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another student without the other student's express consent or without proper attribution to the other student.
2. Using any materials or resources, through any medium, which the faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to the student.



3. Using additional time, or failing to stop working when instructed, on any time-bound academic activity.
4. Failing to follow the directions of a proctor of any academic activity, when such conduct could lead to an academic advantage or benefit.
5. Collaborating with another person, through any medium, on any academic activity, when faculty has expressly prohibited collaboration.

Plagiarizing the work of others or of online documents is a sign of inadequate character and unnecessary insecurity about one's ability.

### CAMPUS RESOURCES:

#### Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care](#) website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center](#) website.

University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department](#) website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center](#) website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell](#) website or call 352-273-4450.

#### Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.



Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process