Prof. K. Russell-Brown Spring 2022

Phone (352) 273-0912 Wed/Fri 10AM – 11:25AM

Office Hours: Mon 11-1, or by appt. 284 Holland Hall

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**RACE, CRIME & LAW**

**Seminar [3 credits]**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the interplay of race, crime, and the law in the U.S. The course has two interrelated and underlying themes. First, the role of history as context for understanding contemporary laws that govern the criminal justice system. Second, how existing laws, their applications within the justice system, might be restructured and re-imagined to further racial justice. Course readings and class discussions will examine a variety of topics including legally sanctioned segregation (e.g., slave codes and Jim Crow), lynching, sundown towns, racial profiling, capital punishment, and incarceration. The assigned readings primarily focus on Blacks and Whites. However, we will also read and discuss material on other racial groups, including American Indians, Latinos/as, and Asian Americans. The course readings combine legal, historical, political, empirical, and sociological materials.

**REQUIRED MATERIAL**

* K. Russell-Brown (2021) *The Color of Crime*, 3d ed (New York University Press)
* Reading Packet (UF Law Bookstore/Target Copy)
* Canvas postings

Please note that additional reading may be assigned.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Class Participation 20 percent

Research Presentation 30 percent

Research Paper 50 percent

**ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION & ASSIGNMENTS**

It is expected that students will attend class regularly, read assigned materials prior to the class discussion, and participate in class discussions. During the semester, students will complete short writing assignments. All assignments are should be submitted via email before the beginning of class. Please plan to remain in class for the entire time period. If you plan to arrive late or need to leave early, please notify the professor in advance.

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Please review the UF Student Honor Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>

**RESEARCH PAPER AND THE ADVANCED WRITING REQUIREMENT**

According to the Student Handbook, all J.D. candidates are required to produce, with close faculty supervision, a major writing project. The writing must show evidence of original systematic scholarship based on individual research. Students typically satisfy this requirement in a seminar course.

The required paper for this course will fulfill the Advanced Writing requirement. Students are required to write a 25 page research paper (double-spaced). If you have already fulfilled the Advanced Writing Requirement or you are exempt from this requirement, you may discuss alternate writing formats with the professor.

**COURSE WORKLOAD**

Students should expect to spend approximately two hours preparing for every hour of class.

**GRADING SCALE**

Grading for this course will adhere to the Levin College of Law’s mean and mandatory distributions, detailed in the below chart.

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| --- | --- |
| **Letter Grade** | **Point Equivalent** |
| A (Excellent) | 4.0 |
| A- | 3.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 |
| B | 3.0 |
| B- | 2.67 |
| C+ | 2.33 |
| C (Satisfactory) | 2.0 |
| C- | 1.67 |
| D+ | 1.33 |
| D (Poor) | 1.0 |
| D- | 0.67 |
| E (Failure) | 0.0 |

**ACCOMMODATIONS & OTHER POLICIES**

Requests for classroom accommodations must be made with the Office of Disability Resources. The UF Office of Disability will provide documentation to the student who must then provide documentation to the Law School’s Office of Student Affairs.

Students are expected to complete online course evaluations. Evaluations are done the last few weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are to complete the evaluations at <https://evaluatons.ufl.edu>

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Click [here](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/) for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and may complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/).

**COVID-19 PROTOCOL**

If you have Covid symptoms, complete the screening and schedule a test via [ONE.UF](https://click.info.gator360.ufl.edu/?qs=62992c27c2d2093af81a2646a4841c3a14b58c86d9f232fdaa94009d6db5989bc518357d663a78535313d8b81fa22ddbe4b79abf3a9abd9c92730d8a020fe865).  If you test positive for Covid-19 through a PCR, rapid antigen, or any at-home test, please call the DOH Covid-19 Operations team at 352-273-9790 to report your case.

If you are feeling ill, please stay home and get tested.  Staff should contact their supervisors, who will determine whether you may work remotely or should use sick leave.  Faculty who test positive but feel well may teach their classes remotely.  Faculty who test positive but are sick should cancel or reschedule class.  Please note that it is important that all classes start in person this semester unless the course is designated as an online course.

If you come in close contact with someone who has tested positive, please visit [ONE.UF](https://click.info.gator360.ufl.edu/?qs=62992c27c2d2093af81a2646a4841c3a14b58c86d9f232fdaa94009d6db5989bc518357d663a78535313d8b81fa22ddbe4b79abf3a9abd9c92730d8a020fe865) to report your exposure on the screener.  A close contact remains someone who was within six feet of you for at least 15 minutes during the 48 hours before they began to experience Covid symptoms. The Office of Student Affairs will continue to provide support for students who are sick or withheld from campus. The Office of Student Affairs will provide these students with class recordings.

UF Health strongly encourages everyone to become fully vaccinated against Covid-19.  The CDC recently revised its definition of who is considered fully vaccinated to individuals who (1) received a booster and (2) completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six months; or completed the primary series of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two months.

Free and easy-to-access vaccines remain available through the Student Health Care Center, the health department, UF Health pharmacies, UF Health Physicians practices and over 30 retail pharmacies and health practices in the community.  You may explore vaccine availability [here](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations-2/vaccine-availability/vaccine-availability-alachua/#uf).

**Masks**

*Masks are expected*. *In addition to being fully vaccinated, UF Health advises everyone to wear an N95 or KN95 mask in indoor settings.  That is the best protection against the Omicron variant.  Students may request masks through the Office of Student Affairs.**Everyone is expected to wear masks in all UF Law buildings, including classrooms, hallways, our library, the second floor of Bruton-Geer, and in the Commons when you are not actively eating or drinking.*

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss definitions of race, crime and justice
2. Identify how U.S. laws have shaped the ways that various racial groups have experienced the criminal legal system
3. Discuss seminal Supreme Court cases on race and the justice system
4. Describe types of Jim Crow legislation
5. Describe racial profiling and its impact on various racial groups, policing and society at large
6. Identify legal and policy responses to identified problems within the criminal legal
7. Research and write a paper on an important race and crime issue