Critical Race Theory  
Professor Adrien K. Wing  
Spring 2014

This course will examine race relations and racial discrimination through the perspectives of proponents of the Critical Race Theory (CRT) movement, a collection of legal scholars who challenge both conservative and liberal political orthodoxies. CRT is part of an evolving critical jurisprudential tradition and we will look at some of the interrelated networks, including Critical Legal Studies (CLS), feminist jurisprudence, critical white studies, Queer Theory, Asian Crit, and LatCrit Theory as well. There will be a special emphasis on critical race feminism, which focuses on the status of women of color under the law.

**READINGS**

The readings are:


2. Handouts

There may be additional short reading due to late breaking events. There may be guest speakers as well. There may be make up classes.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

This class is not on the mandatory curve.

1. Each student will do a 15 minute oral and written class presentation of one day’s readings. The length of the written component is variable. Many students now do powerpoint and we circulate the slides via email. Some of the powerpoints even contain video clips which can be highly effective. The presentation may include: questions raised by each reading, relations of the readings to other readings and current events, issues for further study, etc. DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE DAY’S READINGS. This aspect may include a role play, moot court, film clip or some other creative component. For the articles from the Text, they are usually shortened version of law review pieces. You may want to seek out the full versions and also check for more recent articles on the same subject. This assignment is worth 20%. The students should email the class the presentation no later than 6am of the day of the presentation.

2. Class participation will count 20% of the final grade. It includes regular class attendance as well as preparation and active contribution to class discussion. Comments should evidence a mastery of the readings. Anyone who will be absent should email me.

3. There will be a CRT Roundtable at the end of the course which will count 20% of the final grade. The Roundtable will consider cutting edge questions on where do we go from here?
4. There will be a take home final that will count 40% of the final grade.

5. Those students desiring to do a research paper should be sure to discuss the proposed paper with me early in the semester. The papers can be for 1-3 units of writing and academic credit.

6. Any student needing exam or other accommodations to comply with the requirements for this course should contact Dean Crain at the start of the semester.

OFFICE HOURS

The best time to reach me is right after class. I am teaching in the hour before class. Feel free to stop by my office in room 410. The best days are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. My cell phone is 319-621-7674. My email address is adrien-wing@uiowa.edu. Email if you want a specific appointment. My secretary is Kelley Winebold in room 469. She can be reached at kelley-winebold@uiowa.edu or 335-9099.

READINGS ---- all dates approximate. The readings may be adjusted to accommodate guest speakers, make ups, late breaking events, etc. (Do the reading for the day listed even if we have not finished the prior day’s readings.)

Week One

Mon. Jan. 13 INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Introduce Ourselves – sign up for presentations

Text pp. 4-6

Narrative


Tues. Jan. 14


Adrien Wing, Brief Reflections Towards a Multiplicative Theory and Praxis of Being, excerpted from Critical Race Feminism: A Reader 27 (Adrien Wing ed., 1996)

Wed. Jan 15

Social Constructions of Race

Week Two

Mon. Jan. 20 --MLK Day holiday  no class

Tues. Jan. 21

Binaries


Identity


Wed. Jan. 22

Hate Speech

Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, Four Observations about Hate Speech, 44 Wake Forest L. Rev. 353 (2009)

Please find two examples of racial hate speech on the internet and be prepared to present them in class.

Week Three

Mon. Jan. 27

Criminal Law

Handout 3  Paul Butler, What Value(s) does the Fourth Amendment Serve? The White Fourth Amendment, 43 Tex. Tech L. Rev. 245 (2010)

James Forman, Jr., The Black Poor, Black Elites, and America’s Prisons, 32 Cardozo L. Rev. 791 (2010)

Tues. Jan. 28

Family

Wed. Jan. 29

Employment


Education


Week Four

Mon. Feb. 3

Praxis

Handout 4 Robert Williams, Vampires Anonymous,

Surf the internet to find examples of what might be termed CRT praxis

Tues. Feb. 4

Queer Crit

Catherine Smith, Queer as Black Folk, 2007 Wisc. L. Rev. 379

Class Crit


Wed. Feb. 5

LatCrit


Week Five

Mon. Feb. 10
Asian Crit


Tues. Feb. 11

Global CRT


Wed. Feb. 12

CRITICAL RACE FEMINISM

Introduction Text pp. xii-19

Week Six

Mon. Feb. 17

Essentialism and Antiessentialism: Ain't I a Woman?


Angela Harris, Race and Essentialism in Feminist Legal Theory Text pp. 34-41

Kathleen Cleaver, Racism, Civil Rights, and Feminism Text pp. 48-56

Tues. Feb. 18

Berta Hernandez, Latinas - Everywhere Alien: Culture, Gender, and Sex Text pp. 57-69

Margaret Montoya, Mascaras, Trenzas, y Grenas: Un/masking the Self while Un/braiding Latina Stories and Legal Discourse Text pp. 70-77

Lea Vandervelde & Sandhiya Subramanian, Mrs. Dred Scott Text pp. 78-87

Wed. Feb 19---this class will meet on Feb. 21 for Memphis 13 documentary and panel presentation
Week Seven

Mon. Feb. 24

Discussion of documentary and panel

Outsiders in the Academy and Profession

Ken Mack, A Social History of Everyday Practice: Sadie T. M. Alexander and the Incorporation of Black Women into the American Legal Profession, 1925-1960  Text pp. 91-100


Tues. Feb. 25

Lani Guinier, Of Gentlemen and Role Models  Text 106-113


Adrien Wing, Lessons from a Portrait: Keep Calm and Carry On, in Presumed Incompetent 356 (Angela Harris et al eds., 2012)

Wed. Feb. 26

Angela Gilmore, It Is Better to Speak  Text pp. 114-19

Pamela Smith, Failing to Mentor Sapphire: The Actionability of Blocking Black Women from Initiating Mentoring Relationships Text pp. 120-30

Pamela Bridgewater, Transforming Silence: The Personal, Political, and Pedagogical Prism of Abortion Narrative  Text pp. 149-56

Week Eight

Mon. Mar. 3

Handout 6 continued Joel Marrero-Otero, What does a Wise Latina Look Like? An Intersectional Analysis of Sonia Sotomayor’s Confirmation to the US Supreme Court, 30 Chicana/o-Latina/o L. Rev. 177 (2011)
Tues. Mar. 4

_On Mothering or Not_

Patricia Williams, _Spare Parts, Family Values, Old Children, Cheap_ Text pp. 159-66


Twila Perry, _Transracial Adoption: Mothers, Hierarchy, Race, and Feminist Legal Theory_ Text pp. 176-85

Wed. Mar. 5

Adrien Wing, _Polygamy in Black America_ Text pp. 186-94

_Criminality_

Anita Allen, _Against Drug Use_ Text pp. 197-208

Week Nine

Mon. Mar. 10

Paula Johnson, _At the Intersection of Injustice: Experiences of African American Women in Crime and Sentencing_ Text pp. 209-18

Maria Ontiveros, Rosa Lopez, Christopher Darden, and Me: _Issues of Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in Evaluating Witness Credibility_ Text pp. 219-27

Tues. Mar. 11

Michele Goodwin, _Gender, Race, and Mental Illness: The Case of Wanda Jean Allen_ Text pp. 228-37

Margaret Chon, _Erasing Race? A Critical Race Feminist View of Internet Identity Shifting_ Text pp. 238-49

Wed. Mar. 12

Lisa Ikemoto, _Male Fraud_ Text pp. 250-258
Domestic Violence


Week of March 17 spring break

Week Ten

Mon. Mar. 24


Donna Coker, Enhancing Autonomy for Battered Women: Lessons from Navajo Peacemaking Text pp. 287-97

Tues. Mar. 25

Working

Regina Austin, Sapphire Bound! Text pp. 301-308

Paulette Caldwell, A Hair Piece: Perspectives on the Intersection of Race and Gender Text pp. 309-17

Wed. Mar. 26

Devon Carbado & Mitu Gulati, The Fifth Black Woman Text pp. 318-27


Week Eleven

Mon. Mar. 31

Dorothy Brown, Race, Class, and Gender Essentialism in Tax Literature: The Joint Return Text pp. 339-48

Sumi Cho, Converging Stereotypes in Racialized Sexual Harassment: Where the Model Minority Meets Suzie Wong Text pp. 349-66
Tues. Apr. 1

Emma Coleman Jordan, Race, Gender, and Social Class in the Thomas Sexual Harassment Hearings: The Hidden Fault Lines in Political Discourse Text pp. 367-72

*On the Borders*

Azizah al-Hibri, Muslim Women's Rights in the Global Village: Challenges and Opportunities Text pp. 375-84

Wed. Apr. 2

Leti Volpp, Feminism versus Multiculturalism Text pp. 395-405


Week Twelve

Mon. Apr. 7

Adrien Wing & Monica Nigh Smith, Critical Race Feminism Lifting the Veil?: Muslim Women, France and the Headscarf Ban, 39 UC Davis L Rev. 743 (2006)

Tues. Apr. 8


Wed. Apr. 9

Future

Handout 8 Sumi Cho, Postracialism, 94 Iowa L. Rev. 1589 (2009)

Week Thirteen

Mon. Apr. 14


Tues. Apr. 15
Devon Carbado, Critical What What?, 43 Conn. L. Rev. 1593 (2011)

**Wed. Apr. 16**

Finish all readings  prepare for Roundtable

**Week Fourteen**

**Mon. Apr. 21 CRT Roundtable**  Where do we go from here??

**Tues. Apr. 22**  finish Roundtable

**Wed. Apr. 23**  last class  take home final