**RACE, GENDER, AND THE LAW**

**FALL 2020**

# Instructor: Jacquelyn Bridgeman

**Course Numbers:** LAW 6915; POLS 4710, 5710; WMST, 4500; 5000; AAST 4990;AIST 4990; LTST 4990;CRMJ 4990; SOC 4890

# Class Meetings: Wednesdays, 3:10-5:40 pm

Via Zoom: <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/94024077680>;

Meeting ID: 940 2407 7680

**Class Room:** College of Business, Room 127

**Office:** Ross Hall 114; Law 242A

**Phone:** 766-5259

**E-mail:** [jbridge@uwyo.edu](mailto:jbridge@uwyo.edu) (This is the best way to reach me.)

**Office Hours:** I will conduct all office hours by appointment and via zoom throughout the semester. If you would like to talk in person, please email me and we can set up a time to meet. I am also willing to talk immediately after class whether class is conducted in person or via zoom.

**Please note that you can email me with questions at any time.**

# Class Website: UW WyoCourses for Race, Gender, and the Law (accessed through your WyoWeb Dashboard)

**Course Description and Objectives:** Throughout this course we will explore the extremely complex and rich relationship between the law, race, and gender. The first half of the semester will provide a historical overview of these issues and explore the legal structures, theories, and policies that affect issues of race and gender in American Society. In the second half of the semester we will take that knowledge and apply it to contemporary issues of race and gender with an eye towards better understanding and seeking solutions for current societal problems and challenges.

**Texts:** Class Reader (available on the class website)

**Class Attendance**: Unless given permission by the instructor, students are expected to attend class in person either in the traditional classroom setting (when available) or via zoom. If you are not able to attend class in-person when traditional classroom instruction is available, you must notify me as soon as you know so we may accommodate your attendance via zoom.

If you are not able to attend class in person due to health issues or other reasons, please let me know asap. As noted below, class discussion and participation is a significant part of this course. However, given the difficult times in which we live, I will work with all students as needed to make this class a workable and positive educational experience and to make sure you are not hindered or penalized due to circumstances beyond your control.

* ***Traditional Classroom Attendance Requirements*:** Each student who attends class in the traditional classroom setting will be required to wear a face mask, and to follow all social distancing and sanitation requirements. Any student not wearing a mask or who refuses to follow other health and safety rules will be asked to leave the classroom and will lose class participation credit for that day. Repeated refusals to follow proscribed health and safety rules may result in dismissal from the course and a failing grade.

**Grading:**

This class takes a “Community of Scholars” approach, which means that each member of the class is responsible for helping to create and contribute to a positive and productive learning environment for all participants. The approach to grading for this course is meant to emphasize and reward students for being good members of the learning community.

**1) Class Participation—25%**

* This will primarily be a discussion class. Discussions for this class may take place in person via synchronous zoom or in person in a traditional classroom setting. Discussions may also be conducted online through class discussion boards or other digital interactive means. In order to make the class work it is important that all students participate in the class. Each student is required to attend each class either in person or via zoom (unless given permission from the instructor as noted above), to participate in the online discussions and exercises as assigned, to do the assigned reading, and to come to class prepared to discuss the day’s topics.
* ***Zoom Expectations***: Students are expected to attend class in person either in a traditional classroom setting or via zoom. When attending by zoom, it is expected that each student will be visible with their cameras on. If you have technological needs that will make full participation via zoom a challenge, please let me know and/or contact the UWIT Services Center: <https://uwyo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1940/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=8890>
* ***Respect for Others and Creation of a Positive Class Environment*:** Throughout the course of this semester we will talk about a lot of difficult and sensitive subjects. In order to foster class discussion and to make the class environment comfortable, for all to participate, it is imperative that an atmosphere of mutual respect is maintained. You should feel free to express your own opinions and to disagree with your classmates, but at all times it is a requirement of this class that you address and treat everyone with respect. A failure to do so will not only lower your overall grade, it may cause you to fail the class outright. (Please see Classroom Behavior Policy below)

1. **Reaction Papers—15%**

* Throughout the semester, each student will be required to submit three reaction papers. Reaction papers are due on the following dates:
  + September 16, 2020
  + October 14, 2020
  + November 11, 2020
* Reaction papers may be **no less than two full pages and no more than four pages** in length.
* Each reaction paper should contain your thoughts, reflections, analysis, and questions with respect to the readings and class discussions up until the time the paper is due.
  + A good reaction paper will:
    - Focus on a topic and have a main point/thesis.
    - Connect the ideas contained in the paper to broader themes discussed throughout the semester.
    - Contain a thoughtful analysis/discussion of the topic chosen.
* Merely regurgitating points made by others or explaining/reporting on what was contained in the readings will not earn you a high grade. I am looking for thoughtful papers that show an attempt to think about and wrestle with the complex subjects we will be discussing in class.
* Reaction papers are **due at midnight on the day** in which they are due (i.e. at the very end of the day on the day on which they are due)**.** Papers should be submitted via the WyoCourse class website.
* Each paper should be typed, double spaced, left justified, contain page numbers and be written in Times New Roman 12-point font (or its equivalent) and have one- inch margins all the way around. Your full name, and the date of the class on which you are turning in the paper, should appear at the top left corner of your paper. Your paper should be submitted in Microsoft Word format. I will accept papers that do not meet these formatting requirements, but you will lose points if your paper does not meet these specifications.
* Unless you are suffering from a health condition, or similar problem, **I will not accept late papers.**

1. **Class Presentation—15%** 
   * At the end of the semester, you will be required to provide a short presentation and lead a discussion on a topic of your choice related to Race, Gender, and the Law. While you may pick any topic you like, related to the subject matter of the class, if you pick a topic on which someone else is also presenting, you and the other person must present the topic in different ways from different perspectives.
   * To score well, your topic must be a current issue related to Race, Gender, and the Law. In giving your presentation you should provide enough context and background of your topic so that class members have a deeper understanding of the issues and are able to participate in a robust class discussion. While creativity and quality of presentation will be taken into account with respect to the grading, you should err on the side of providing good substantive information rather than superficial bells and whistles.

* More information regarding the specific requirements of the presentation will be provided in a separate hand-out.

1. **Final Exam—45%**

* There will be a take home final examination for this course. The exam will consist of short answer and/or essay questions. Any of the material we cover in the semester will be fair game to appear on the exam. The exam will be made available through the WyoCourse class website beginning on Thursday, December 3, 2020 and will remain available until Tuesday, December 15. Students may begin taking the exam at any time during the exam period. Once a student begins the exam, he/she/they will have 24 hours to complete and submit the exam. Any student who turns in his/her/their exam more than 24 hours after it is begun will be considered to have turned the exam in late and will be penalized according to College of Law and/or UW policy. More specific information will be given closer to exam time.

**Tardiness and Absenteeism**

* We will begin class promptly at 3:10 pm. You are expected to be on time whether you are attending in a traditional classroom setting or via zoom. Late arrival, especially over successive classes, will negatively impact your class participation grade.
* The deadlines for assignments are specified above and below in the course plan, or will be provided in a separate hand-out and noted on the class website. You are to turn in your assignments by the required deadline. If you will not be able to turn in an assignment by the deadline due to illness, family emergency, and similar issues please contact me as soon as you are able to.

**The readings for each week will be posted on the class website the week before they are due. You are responsible for obtaining and reading these materials in advance of class as though you had a regular textbook.**

Course Plan

**Aug. 26** Class Introduction, Early Laws and Foundational Principles

**Sept. 2** Law and Race a Historical Perspective: African Americans & Native Americans

**Sept. 9** Law and Race a Historical Perspective: Latinx, Asians, and Whites

**Sept. 16** Law and Gender a Historical Perspective

* + - **Reaction Paper #1—due by midnight (submit online via WyoCourses)**

**Sept. 23** Race, Gender & Law: The Civil Rights Acts, Equal Protection and Due Process, and Modern Antidiscrimination Theory

**Sept. 30** Race, Gender & Law: Title IX, Family Law, Identity and Gender Equity

**Oct. 7** Race, Gender & Law: First Amendment, Free Speech, Language Discrimination, and Related Issues

* + - **Presentation Topics—due by midnight (submit online via WyoCourses)**

**Oct. 14** Race, Gender & Law: Politics and Voting

* + - **Reaction Paper #2——due by midnight (submit online via WyoCourses)**

**Oct. 21** Race, Gender & Law: Housing and Education

**Oct. 28** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 1

* + - **Presentation Outlines—due by midnight (submit online via WyoCourses)**

**Nov. 4** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 2

**Nov. 11** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 3

* + - **Reaction Paper #3——due by midnight (submit online via WyoCourses)**

**Nov. 18** Class Presentations

**Nov. 25 Class Break—Happy Thanksgiving**

**Dec. 2** Class Presentations

**Dec. 3--Dec. 16—Finals taken and submitted online**

**OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Classroom Behavior Policy**

Failure to abide by the classroom behavior rules may result in your immediate dismissal from the class and a lowering of your grade for a particular assignment or the class as a whole. Repeated violations may result in permanent dismissal from the course and a failing grade.

It is a requirement for this course that all students act in a respectful, civil, and professional manner at all times and that they do not engage in behaviors that disrupt the learning environment and/or endanger the health and safety of others. This includes arriving on time, completing work in a timely and professional manner, adhering to course deadlines and following instructions from the professor, including all instructions regarding the wearing of masks and similar protective gear, social distancing requirements, and any other safety measure required for the course*.* While the expression of different views, spirited debate, and disagreement are an expected and supported part of the course, disrespectful, demeaning, degrading, hateful, harassing, abusive, profane, vulgar, lewd, personal attacks, name-calling, dismissive gestures, and similar kinds of behaviors, whether they be verbal, physical, or of any other nature, will not be tolerated, nor will any other activities and behaviors that fundamentally disrupt the classroom and/or the learning environment, or that put the health and safety of others at risk.

Any participant in the course who acts in a way the instructor believes violates these conduct rules, or in any other way disrupts the learning environment and/or creates an environment that is hostile and/or not conducive to learning or a positive learning environment, or that engages in behaviors that endanger the health and safety of others, will be warned and/or asked to leave the class immediately. In the event an individual is asked to leave for the afore stated reasons and refuses to exit the classroom, the instructor has the right to call law enforcement to escort the individual out of the class. Further, as the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, office hours, and other areas, including staff and work study areas, where disruptive behavior occurs. If such behaviors are repeated it may result in your permanent dismissal from the course and/or a lowered grade, including a failing grade*.*

Additionally, the University of Wyoming Student Code of Conduct and the College of Law Honor Code apply to this course. The Code of Conduct can be found at: <http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct/index.html> and the College of Law Honor Code can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/law/current/resources/forms.html>. Each student is expected to read and adhere to both codes at all times. Failure to do so may result in a student being subject to Code of Conduct and/or honor code procedures and other department or university-level disciplinary actions. Please note, Code of Conduct proceedings and department and/or university-level discipline may be in addition to any of the disciplinary measures noted above.

**COVID-19 Requirements**

During this pandemic, you are required to abide by all UW policies and public health rules put forward by the City of Laramie, the University of Wyoming, and the State of Wyoming to promote the health and well-being of fellow students and your own personal self-care. The current UW policy can be found here: <https://www.uwyo.edu/alerts/campus-return/index.html>

**Academic Honesty**

University Regulation 6-802, which can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-6-802.pdf> contains the University policy on academic honesty. It is expected that you will familiarize yourself with these rules and abide by them at all times. Failure to do so may subject you to severe sanctions including but not limited to possibly failing this course or dismissal from the university.

Academic dishonesty is an action attempted or performed that misrepresents one’s involvement in an academic endeavor in any way, or assists another student in misrepresenting his or her involvement in an academic endeavor; e.g., cheating, fabrication of information, plagiarism etc.  A student who plagiarizes at minimum will receive an “F” in the course and may go before a University board for a hearing on the matter.

**Disability**

If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations due to your disability, please let College of Law Dean Kalen or Dean Hoyt know as soon as possible, if you haven’t already. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to, University Disability Support Services (UDSS), room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact UDSS by phone: 307-766-3073 or email: udss@uwyo.edu. For more information please see http://www.uwyo.edu/udss/.

**Diversity**

“The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning. “

**Duty to Report**

Under Title IX, discrimination based on sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, you are encouraged to report it. Please note that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, faculty members MUST report information you share about the incident to the university’s Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. More information about UW policies and resources can be found at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>.

**Syllabus Changes**

As we co-create this class together and as life may intervene as it is prone to do, it may necessitate changes to the syllabus. I will be sure to notify you of any changes made to the syllabus, and will endeavor to do so through multiple forums.