**RACE, GENDER, AND THE LAW**

**FALL 2019**

# Instructor: Jacquelyn Bridgeman

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

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

**Clas Room:** Law School Room 191

**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:** Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00-12:00 in Law 242A and by appointment (please email, call or speak to me during class for an appointment).

*Due to my administrative duties it is sometimes hard for me to keep regular office hours. I will try to give you as much notice as I can if my office hours must be changed.*

**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)

**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—20%**

* This will primarily be a discussion class. Therefore, 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, to do the assigned reading, and to come prepared ready to discuss the day’s topics.

1. **Reaction Papers—20%**

* Beginning the second week of class (September 11, 2019), each student will be required to submit one reaction paper for every two weeks of class (six total). They will be due on:
  + September 11, 2019
  + September 25, 2019
  + October 9, 2019
  + October 23, 2019
  + November 6, 2019
  + November 20, 2019
* 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 of the previous two weeks.
  + 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 the beginning of each class** in which they are due**.**
* Each paper should be typed, double spaced, left justified, with font no larger than Times New Roman 12-point font 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. I will accept papers that do not meet these formatting requirements, but you will lose points if your paper does not meet these specifications.
* If you are unable to attend class and your absence is foreseeable, you should submit your reaction paper by the beginning of the class you will miss. If your absence is not foreseeable, and you have a University approved absence, you may turn in your paper at the beginning of the following class. **I will not accept late papers.**
* Please submit your paper in hard copy.

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 in the College of Law front office beginning on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 and will remain available until 10:00 am on Thursday, December 19. Students may pick up the exam at any time. Once a student picks up the exam, he/she/they will have 24 hours from the time of pick up to complete and return the exam to the College of Law front office. Any student who turns in his/her/their exam more than 24 hours after it is picked up 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, Absenteeism and Respect for others**

* We will begin class promptly at 3:10 pm. You are expected to be on time. 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. In the event you must miss a class and that absence is foreseeable, as indicated, you are to turn in your assignments by the required deadline. Unless you have an extremely immediate family emergency or a sudden illness that is independently verified, that prevents you from turning in an assignment on time, **I will not take late assignments.** Absent the excuses just specified, there are no exceptions to this rule.
* 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.

**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

**Sept. 4** Class Introduction, Early Laws and Foundational Principles

**Sept. 11** Law and Race a Historical Perspective: African Americans & Native Americans

* + - **Reaction Paper #1—due at beginning of class**

**Sept. 18** Law and Race a Historical Perspective: Latina/os, Asians, and Whites

**Sept. 25** Law and Gender a Historical Perspective

* + - **Reaction Paper #2—due at beginning of class**

**Oct. 2** Race, Gender & Law: Constitutional Rules and Issues

**Oct. 9** Race, Gender & Law: The Civil Rights Acts and Modern Antidiscrimination Theory

* + - **Reaction Paper #3—due at beginning of class**

**Oct. 16** Race, Gender & Law: Title IX, Family Law, Identity and Gender Equity

* + - **Presentation Topics—due at beginning of class**

**Oct. 23** Race, Gender & Law: First Amendment, Free Speech, Language Discrimination, and Related Issues

* + - **Reaction Paper #4—due at beginning of class**

**Oct. 30** Race, Gender & Law: Politics, Voting, Housing, and Education

**Nov. 6** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 1

* + - **Reaction Paper #5—due at beginning of class**

**Nov. 13** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 2

* + - **Presentation Outlines—due at beginning of class**

**Nov. 20** Contemporary Issues: Class Choice Topic 3

* + - **Reaction Paper #6—due at beginning of class**

**Dec. 2 or 3** Class Presentations

**Dec. 4--Dec. 10 at 10:00 am** Take home finals available in College of Law front office. **Must be turned in 24 hours after check out.**

**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. This includes arriving on time, completing work in a timely and professional manner, following instructions from the professor, and adhering to course deadlines. 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.

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, 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.

**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>.