

**MIDSTATE COLLEGE**  
**411 W. NORTHMOOR RD.**  
**PEORIA, IL 61614**  
**(309) 692-4092      (800) 251-4299**  
**Fall Term 2018**

**Course number & Name:** LSJ 320 — Law and Racism in America

**Credit hours:** 4 Quarter Hours

**Method of Delivery:** eLearning

**Course Description:** This course will examine the role of the law in both preserving and eliminating racial injustice in the United States from the inception and rise of slavery during the colonial period through the racial desegregation decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) to modern day racial injustices. This course explores the nature of racism, its essential features and their relationship to legal, social, and economic practices in the United States.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of LSJ 110 (Introduction to Social Justice) or Permission from Department Director.

**Text(s) & Manual(s):**

1. *The Color of Justice: Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America*
  - Author/Edited by: S. Walker, C. Spohn, & M. Delone
  - Publisher: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning (2012)
  - ISBN-13: 978-1-111-34692-8
2. Additional readings available on Moodlerooms

**Materials needed for this course:** Access to computer (including Internet/email).

**Topics:** The topics covered in this course include:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts

**Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.

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2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Midstate Grading Scale:**

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

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**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

**Student Success and Tutoring:**

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100;  
studentsuccess@midstate.edu;

The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- Tutoring: Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course. Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.
- Writing assignment assistance: This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).
- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.

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- Study skills development.
- Time management.

**Assessment Portfolio Reminder:** Students (depending on your program major) may be required to prepare an assessment portfolio for graduation. Keep a copy of this syllabus in the portfolio. Use the “Evidence for Success” list from your program portfolio (or consult your program Director) and instructions from the instructor to determine the assignment(s) that should be placed in the assessment portfolio.

**Instructor:** Ashley Miller, Attorney  
National Labor Relations Board  
Adjunct Faculty Professor, Legal Studies  
[ammiller4@midstate.edu](mailto:ammiller4@midstate.edu)  
Live Office Hours: Tuesday 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Room 500

**Participation Requirements:** You are expected to participate at least two days a week in several conference discussions / homework assignments relating to the subject materials for the week. You **will be required** to participate in the group discussion forum *substantively at least twice times* each week. Discussions will take place in the online discussion forum as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students. When applicable, include page numbers from assigned readings or other sources to cite supporting documentation. All posts should advance the discussion and deepen academic inquiry. **PLEASE NOTE:** Substantive participation requires original thought and application to the threads and student posts. Participation in the “General Discussion” thread each week – which generally is a place for students and the instructor to ‘chat,’ not engage in class material – **does not** count toward substantive participation. Congratulatory, “I agree,” and/or praising sentences – while encouraged – do not count toward substantive participation either. **Due to the structure of this course based on student-centered learning with a large emphasis on group discussion, if discussion requirements are not being met the instructor will first notify the student that more participation is required, and if**

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**the student does not comply the instructor will recommend the student be withdrawn from the course.**

**Examination Information:** There will be 2 examinations administered in this class.

1. **Midterm Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. It will be available **in Week 5.**
2. **Final Examination** - will consist of 100 points and it will cover the chapters as indicated in the Course Outline. It will be available **Week 12**

**Methods of evaluating student performance:** Please see “Instructor Final Grade Determination” below for more information.

**Attendance Policy:** eLearning students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as “Present” for the week.

**Instructors Grading Scale:** The following assignments and activities are outlines in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by the date identified by the instructor and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module.

Day 1	Monday
Day 2	Tuesday
Day 3	Wednesday
Day 4	Thursday
Day 5	Friday
Day 6	Saturday
Day 7	Sunday

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**Instructor Final Grade Determination:** Your final grade in this course will be based on **840** points. There will be a quiz over each chapter in the text book to reinforce that week's lecture and material. Each quiz will be made available on Monday at 12:00 noon of that week and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. This gives students one full week to complete the materials. For quiz availability dates, see dates in the Course Outline below. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. There will be a Research Project due during the term. Additionally, students will be required to complete Essay Assignments each week, as assigned. Guidelines and details for all writing assignments are detailed below in Course Policies and Procedures. Additionally, students will be expected to participate in group discussions having demonstrated they have read the material assigned. Points will be deducted at my discretion if a student does not demonstrate knowledge of the assigned material and/or does not contribute during group discussions. We will be engaging in group discussions over our textbook material, special readings, and any documentaries that we view throughout the term. Additionally, there will be a Midterm and Final Exam, both which will be administered online and will include essay, multiple choice, and true/false questions. Grading points are as follows:

1. Midterm exam	100 points
2. Final exam	100 points
3. Research paper	200 points
4. Essay Assignments	150 points (10 Essays each x 15 points)
5. Discussions	190 point (19 discussions x 10 points)
6. Quizzes	100 points (10 quizzes each x 10 points)
7. TOTAL POINTS	<b>840 points</b>

\*All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

**Course Policies and Procedures:**

1. eLearning Sessions: In accordance with Midstate College policies, class material will be made available on Monday at 12:00 p.m. of that week (see dates in the Course Outline below) and will remain available until the following Monday until 8:00 a.m. You will be required to participate in the group discussion forum. This allows students one week to access the

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lecture and related material for that week's session and participate in the mandatory discussion and summary boards.

2. This course is focused on a student-centered approach that emphasizes focused reading and group discussion.
3. **Essay Assignments:** There will be 10 essay questions pertaining to the material for that week. The Essays will be due by the last day of the week (Monday morning at 8:00 AM). Late submissions will be docked one point per day and after 7 days it will not be accepted and will get a **zero**. Essay questions **MUST** be answered in their entirety to receive full credit. This is a 300-level college course, and these assignments should be reflective of the higher level skills and comprehension at this level. One or two sentence answers will not be sufficient and will be graded down. I will be looking for critical thinking and assessment. (NOTE: While this is not a composition course, I will be counting off for grammar and spelling errors, run-on sentences, and other writing errors. I expect good quality assignments!)
4. **Research Project:** Each student is required to complete an argumentative Research paper this term. You will generate your own topic on some aspect of law and racism in America. You will make an argument about your topic, which is to be clearly stated in the introduction of the paper. You will utilize no fewer than **three scholarly journal articles** appropriate to and supporting your topic. (If you are unfamiliar with scholarly journal articles, we will arrange a meeting with the head librarian at Midstate.) While you may use information in the assigned reading materials, at least three journal articles **must also** be utilized. Your paper **must** include proper APA citations and a References/Work Cited page. Your research paper must be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. It will be submitted via a Turnitin link in Moodlerooms by the due date (**Week 10**).
5. All work must be completed by **Week 12**.
6. Academic dishonesty (cheating / plagiarism) in any form **will not be tolerated** in this course and may result in the dismissal/suspension from the course/program/college. Do your own work!! Not knowing the rules of plagiarism is not a valid defense. Check with me if you are not clear on what constitutes plagiarism.

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7. This is a tentative syllabus and outline and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will receive timely notice of all such changes via announcements made online in Moodlerooms and via email.

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LSJ320 – Law and Racism in America  
Fall Term 2016  
**Course Outline**

This outline is a guideline that may change as necessary as the quarter/term progresses. However, exams WILL BE on the given dates and will include questions on all information covered to that point.

**Week 1:**

1. Pretest
2. Syllabus Review/Course Goals
3. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 1
4. Week 1 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 1:

1. Racial and Ethnic Categories
2. The Geography of Racial and Ethnic Justice
3. Disparity versus Discrimination
4. Theoretical Perspective on Race, Ethnicity, and Crime

Objectives Covered in Week 1:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.

**Week 2:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 2
2. Week 2 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 2:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality

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4. Media and Crime

Objectives Covered in Week 2:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
3. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 3:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 3
2. Week 3 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 3:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts
5. Socio-Economic Inequality and Crime

Objectives Covered in Week 3:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 4:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 4
2. Week 4 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 4:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices

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3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts
5. Policing Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities
6. Racial Profiling: Search and Seizures

**Objectives Covered in Week 4:**

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 5:**

1. Midterm Exam: *The Color of Justice*: Chapters 1-4
2. Week 5 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

**Topics Covered in Week 5:**

1. Midterm Exam: *The Color of Justice*: Chapters 1-4

**Objectives Covered in Week 5:**

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 6:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 5
2. Week 6 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

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Topics Covered in Week 6:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts
5. Decision Regarding Counsel and Bail
6. Charging and Plea Bargaining

Objectives Covered in Week 6:

1. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
2. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
3. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 7:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 6
2. Week 7 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 7:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the Courts
5. Race and Jury Selection
6. Playing the "Race Card" During Trial

Objectives Covered in Week 7:

1. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
2. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
3. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

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**Week 8:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 7
2. Week 8 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 8:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the Courts

Objectives Covered in Week 8:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 9:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 8
2. Week 9 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 9:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts

Objectives Covered in Week 9:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.

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3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 10:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapter 8
2. Week 10 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 10:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the Courts

Objectives Covered in Week 10:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 11:**

1. *The Color of Justice*: Chapters 10-11
2. Week 1 Homework Assignments Posted on Moodlerooms

Topics Covered in Week 11:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts

Objectives Covered in Week 11:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.

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2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.

**Week 12:**

1. Final Exam: *The Color of Justice*: Chapters 5-11
2. Post Test

Topics Covered in Week 12:

1. Racial classifications and prejudices
2. The institution of slavery through modern day racial injustices
3. Attempted eradication of inequality
4. Racism and the courts

Objectives Covered in Week 12:

1. Examine the analytical framework for identifying racial classifications and racial prejudice.
2. Analyze the role of law in the introduction and development of the slave system through modern day racial injustices.
3. Evaluate the American legal institutions attempted eradication of racial of Inequality (segregation and discrimination).
4. Examine the interplay between racism and the courts.