RACE AND THE LAW

University of St. Thomas School of Law

Fall 2010

Professor Bowser

Required Text: Perea et al., Race and Races (2007)

Contact Information: My email address is rbowser@stthomas.edu. My office is in room 455.

Office Hours: Mondays 3-5. I am also available after each class.

Credits and Grades: This is a three-credit course.

1) Short Paper (5 pages or less) and 15 minute presentation (30%))

2) Participation (10%)

3) Final Exam (60%)

Laptops: Laptop computers are permitted for note taking only, unless I instruct otherwise.

Using the Syllabus: The syllabus lists a set of numbered reading assignments that are intended to correspond to the number of class meetings scheduled for the course. Unless I instruct otherwise, you should assume that we will proceed through the readings in order, spending only one class meeting on each numbered reading.
READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Race and Racism
   Casebook, pp. 5-19; 32-35

2. Legal Support for Slavery
   Casebook, pp. 96-130

3. Dred Scott, The Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution, Plessy
   Casebook, pp. 130-155

4. Evolving Notions of Equality: From Plessy to Brown
   Casebook, pp. 155-171; 755-765

5. The Doctrine of Discovery and the Cherokee Cases
   Casebook, pp. 197-185; 194-214

6. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Early Mexican Citizenship, Land Adjudication
   Casebook, pp. 296-323

7. Mexican Americans and the Struggle against Segregation
   Casebook, pp. 329-340
   Video (to be announced)

8. Chinese Americans – Discrimination and Exclusion
   Casebook, pp. 399-425

   Casebook, pp. 436-462

10. Judicial Construction of Race: The Prerequisite cases
    Casebook, pp. 487-508
11. European Immigration – Discrimination and Assimilation
   Casebook, pp. 508-526
   (Video)

12. Employment Discrimination – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
   Casebook, pp. 595-630

   Casebook, pp. 975-1005

14. Children and Families
   Casebook, pp. 1005-1034

15. Hate Crimes, Stereotypes and Police Brutality
   Casebook, pp. 1099-1125

16. Sentencing Disparities, Racial Profiling, Race and the War on Terror
   Casebook, pp. 1125-1150

17. Racism and Popular Culture
   Casebook, pp. (1035-1077)
   Video (Ethnic Notions)

18. Open

19. Open

20. Student Presentations

21. Student Presentations

22. Student Presentations

23. Student Presentations

24. Wrap up