

RACE AND THE LAW SEMINAR

Professor Jefferson

Fall 2024

Mondays, 3:35 – 5:10 PM

Seminar Paper Requirements

This course will consider how the law deals with and has shaped race issues as well as how societal race relations have in turn shaped the law. In particular, we will inquire into the nature of race and racism and its role in constructing racial hierarchies. We will also examine how the law has treated particular racial minority groups in the past and how the law has changed to address current race problems.

The final paper will count for 50% of the course grade and should be between 20-25 pages in length, include footnotes. Note however, that AWR papers (discussed below) will be of greater page length. The final paper is intended to be a substantial paper setting out **your original** ideas. The final paper is to be of law journal note quality. While I will generally allow much latitude with respect to the paper's form and topic, it must be analytical (promoting legal arguments or policy arguments, or both) in nature and **must be approved by me**.

For the paper, the schedule provided below applies.

All Final Papers must be submitted to Canvas by 5:00 p.m. ET on December 6, 2024. All AWR papers, please follow your contract due dates for your Final AWR paper submission.

Schedule for Submission of Papers

Monday, September 9, 2024, by 12:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: AWR Signed Contract Due.

Friday, September 13, 2024, by 12:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: Submit a one paragraph description of your paper topic.

Monday, September 23, 2024, by 3:35 p.m. ET: Please bring to class a one sentence thesis statement.

Wednesday, September 25, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: After you have brought in a hard copy, worked with Dean McCormack, and refined your thesis statement, please submit to Canvas.

Friday, October 18, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: Submit a detailed outline of your paper based on your initial research of the topic.

The detailed outline must be 2-3 pages in length and must include an introduction, followed by separate numbered or lettered bullet points for each major argument or sub-topic. The detailed outline should also include a thorough description of the research you intend to undertake, including reference to the major case law, scholarly and/or factual sources you will use to support your analysis.

Non-AWR Student's Papers Due Friday, December 6, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: the paper must be 20 pages long. It should include reflecting consideration of the instructor's comments and critiques on previous outline and or draft. It should demonstrate your best efforts in terms of research, writing, and legal analysis.

Non-AWR students your paper (and any drafts) must:

1. Include a title page showing the title, date, your name, and indicating that the paper is being submitted for the Race and the Law Seminar. (If you are submitting the paper for AWR credit, that information should also be shown on the title page.)
2. Have numbered pages.
3. Your final paper must have footnotes complying with Blue Book requirements for citations. Please do not forget that you are responsible for observing all the Vermont Law and Graduate School Honor Code rules. Citations in paper should follow standard Harvard Blue Book rules (latest edition).

AWR Students

Friday, November 15, 2024, by 5:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: first draft (required for AWR credit, otherwise optional)

AWR: the preliminary draft must be a minimum of 15 pages in length. It must cover all points set forth in the detailed outline and must reflect consideration of the instructors' comments and critique of the detailed outline. The preliminary draft must make all the basic arguments you expect to include in your final draft although it may do so in less polished and/or more abbreviated form. The preliminary draft should be well-written, should use complete sentences and paragraphs, should use headings and sub-headings to communicate the structure of your analysis, and should reflect your research by including

support and citation for all propositions. Bluebooking is not required at this stage, but all sources must be identified.

Failure to submit a full draft by the November 15, 2024, deadline will disqualify you for AWR credit.

Friday, December 13, 2024, by 12:00 p.m. ET to Canvas: Final submission for AWR student projects needing revision. Please see AWR contract for more details.