Black Lives Matter (BL 101)
Spring 2017  Mon/Thurs, 11:00 – 12:15  CNS 9

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Instructor of Record: Kris Sealey, Ph.D.
Office: DMH 305
Email: ksealey@fairfield.edu
Office hours: Mon/Thurs, 3:30 – 4:45 & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In the context of Ferguson, Charleston, and other national crises, this course responds to the call of students from our campus community to raise questions about and critically reflect upon the failures of democracy to recognize the value of Black Life. This course employs collective thinking, teaching, and research to focus on questions surrounding race, structural inequality, and violence. It examines the historical, geographical, cultural, social, and political ways in which race has been configured and deployed in the United States. Various faculty will bring to bear their respective scholarly lenses so that students understand race and racism across intellectual disciplines.

TEXTS REQUIRED:
3) Additional required readings posted on Blackboard

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:
- Students will understand that Black Lives Matter
- Students will be empowered to identify and interrupt frameworks of racism
- Students will flexibly respond to current issues on campus and across the nation
- Students will be able to place race in its historical, political, and cultural contexts
- Students will be able to articulate and understand race and racism from a multidisciplinary perspective

EVALUATION FOR THE COURSE:
Weekly Discussion Board Posts (20%): In response to discussion questions posed by the guest speakers and main instructor, you will post once each week to the discussion board on our BB page. The questions will encourage you to engage with the material presented, as well as with the discussion in class inspired by that material. Guidelines will be distributed in class and posted on BB.

3 reflection papers (25%): Throughout the course, you will receive prompts based on material covered in the class sessions; you will have a choice of topics and questions to address in your responses. Each paper should be 2-3
typed, double-spaced pages. You must turn in three response papers. Guidelines will be distributed in class and posted on BB. (25%)

**Participation (25%)**: This course emphasizes participation, in line with the aims and vision of both #Black Lives Matter and our campus group, Racial Justice is Social Justice. Come to class having done the assigned reading/viewing and prepared to take part in an active exchange with the speakers and the group. From time to time you will write informally, work in small groups, and otherwise engage with the issues at hand. You will also post at least once to the BB page (in the “Supporting Material” folder) a link to an article, blog, film, news clip, or other communication relevant to the course. Another component of participation is attendance at events on campus (these will be announced in class, throughout the semester). You are encouraged to write a short reflection whenever you do participate in such an activity, which can contribute to your participation for the course.

**Final Project (30%)**: You will have a wide choice of topics for your final project for the course, which will have two major components. In a small group—your team—you will focus on one topic/issue and delve into research on that topic. From that group work, you will jointly develop a proposal for activism to address that issue; individually, you will write a paper on the aspect of that issue that most interests you personally. Guidelines will be distributed in class and posted on BB.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**: Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas, data, work, or language of others submitted as one’s own work to satisfy the requirements of a course. Plagiarism constitutes theft and deceit. If you plagiarize in a response paper, you will receive no credit for that assignment. If you plagiarize in a formal essay, you will receive an “F” on that assignment and I reserve the right to assign you an “F” for the course.

**Accommodation of Disabilities**: Fairfield University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Any student who may require an accommodation under such provisions should contact Academic & Disability Support Services, 203-254, x2615 or email adss@fairfield.edu.

**TENDATIVE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**
- Thurs Jan 19: Introduction to the course

**WEEK 2**
- Mon Jan 23: *The Racial Contract, 9-19*
- Thurs Jan 26: Rachelle Brunn and Melissa Quan, “Race: Personal, Social, and Structural”

Please note the following, which requires your attendance:
- Mon Jan 23: Screening of *Thirteenth*, Library multi-media room, 7:00 – 9:00
- Tues Jan 24: MLK Memorial March, Chapel, 3:30 – 5:00
- Wed Jan 25: Meet with Fania Davis (MLK Convocation Speaker), DSB, 4:015 – 5:00
  MLK Convocation, Quick Center, 7:30 – 9:00

**WEEK 3**
Thurs Feb 2  
*The Racial Contract*, 19 - 40

**WEEK 4**

Mon Feb 6  
*The Racial Contract*, 19 - 40

Thurs Feb 9  
Sara Brill, “Biopower and Bio-politics through Achille Mbembe’s ‘Necropolitics’”

**WEEK 5**

Mon Feb 13  
*The Racial Contract*, 41 - 53

Thurs Feb 16  
**First reflection paper due**

  Martin Nguyen, “Racialization, Securitization, and Resistance at the Intersection of Black Lives and Muslim Bodies”

**WEEK 6**

Tues Feb 21  
Jill Bodach, “Literature as a Companion to Social Action”  (**class meets in Lib multi-media rm**)

Thurs Feb 23  
Johanna Garvey, “Mass Incarceration and Prison Writing in the Justice Movement”

Please note the following, which requires your attendance:

Thurs Feb 23  
Black History Month Keynote, “Which Lives Matter” by Monti Washington, 8 pm, LL BCC

**WEEK 7**

Mon Feb 27  
*The Racial Contract*, 53 - 89

Thurs Mar 2  
Erica Hartwell, “The (In)visibility of Queer and Trans People of Color”

Please note the following, which requires your attendance:

Wed Mar 1  
Dr. Donald Sawyer (Assistant Professor of Sociology, Quinnipiac University, “Race and Education”, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, CNS 202

**WEEK 8**

Mon Mar 6  
*The Racial Contract*, 91 - 133

Thurs Mar 9  
**Second reflection paper due**

  *The Racial Contract*, 91 – 133

**WEEK 9**

Mon Mar 13  
No class. Spring Break.

Thurs Mar 16  
No class. Spring Break

**WEEK 10**

Mon Mar 20  
Carrie Robinson, Ophelia Rowe-Allen and Pejay Lucky, “Politics of Identity in the Media and Racial Bias and the Media”
Thurs Mar 23  Mike Andreychik, “The psychology of implicit bias”

WEEK 11

Mon Mar 27  The Racial Imaginary, “Introduction” (13-22)

Thurs Mar 30  Third Reflection paper due

Kathy Nantz, “The meritocracy myth and the American Dream”

Please note the following, which requires your attendance:

Wed Mar 29  Danez Smith, spoken word poet, 7:00 pm, Faber Hall

WEEK 12

Mon Apr 3  Elizabeth Petrino, “Race and Rhetoric in Antebellum and Reconstruction America,” (class meets in Lib multi-media rm)

Thurs Apr 6  The Racial Imaginary, “What Do We See? What Do We Not See?” (37-42); “To Whom It May Concern” (60-63)

WEEK 13

Mon Apr 10  The Racial Imaginary, “How Do We Invent…” (75-78); “If I Tell These Stories..” (83-90); “Of Whiteness, Obama, and the So-Called Postracial” (95-105)

Thurs Apr 13  No class. Professor away at a conference

WEEK 14

Mon Apr 17  No class. Easter Recess

Thurs Apr 20  TBD

WEEK 15

Mon Apr 24  Group presentations

Thurs Apr 27  Group presentations

WEEK 16

Mon May 1  Group presentations