

# Introduction to Critical Race Theory

AMST 2220J

Fall 2017

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# Roadmap

- Intros
- Big overview of CRT
- Why CRT?
- Course overview/Syllabus review
- Questions
- Next week

# Intros

- Name, program, pronouns (if comfortable)
- Quick(!) sentence about research interests for PhD students
- Why are you interested in this course? What would you most hope to get out of this course?

# CRT Origins

- Origins in legal scholarship (Derrick Bell, Richard Delgado, Mari Matsuda, Kimberle Crenshaw, Charles Lawrence, Neil Gotanda, Patricia J. Williams, Angela Harris)
- Response to neo-Marxist Critical Legal Studies movement of 1970s

(This and next three slides come from Adrienne Dixson, full deck here:

<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter.olde/programs/TACD/Summer%20Institute/SummerInstitute2007/powerpoints/CriticalRaceTheoryandEducation.pdf> )

# What is Critical Race Theory? (Tenets)

- Recognizes that racism is endemic to American life
- Expresses skepticism toward dominant legal claims of neutrality, objectivity, colorblindness, and meritocracy
- Challenges ahistoricism and insists on a contextual/historical analysis of the law
- Presumes that racism has contributed to all contemporary manifestations of group advantage and disadvantage

# What is CRT cont.

- Insists on recognition of the experiential knowledge of people of color and our communities of origin in analyzing law and society
- Is interdisciplinary
- Works toward eliminating racial oppression as part of the broader goal of ending all forms of oppression (Matsuda, 1993)

# CRT Constructs

- **Interest-convergence**
- **Whiteness as Property**
- **Voice/Counter-story**
- **Critique off liberalism & colorblindness**
- **Racial realism**
- **Restrictive vs. Expansive view off equality**
- **Social change**

# Why CRT?

- The world is messed up
- Gives us a lens through which to understand policy, media, politics, interactions, etc.
- Powerful “toolkit” for navigating institutions
- Space to normalize racism and talk about lived realities
- Academic framework for writing about race and racism



# Course Overview

- Intro/Overview
- Racial Formations
- CRT foundations and tenets
- Settler Colonialism and TribalCrit
- Whiteness
- Colorblind Racism
- Offshoots
- Counterstorytelling/CRT methods
- CRT in Education
- Mass Incarceration
- Reparations and Reconciliation
- CRT in current moment
- Praxis, Hope, and moving forward

# Weekly Hot Topics



- Collect current events, moments, ad campaigns, TV clips, anything throughout the week that you'd like to discuss
- First portion of class will be spent discussing (using CRT lens)
- Credit for the idea goes to the amazing Leigh Patel!

Week of 9/4:



- DACA
- Hurricane Harvey/Irma
- Michael Bennett in Las Vegas
- Pokanoket encampment
- Savanna Lafontaine-Greywind
- Taylor Swift memes
- Ed Skrein leaves Hellboy
- They added a white prince to Aladdin

# Next Week

- Racial Formations (readings on Canvas)
- IAT tests through Harvard
- Positionality Paper due 9/15
- Need 1-2 facilitators