

Spring 2014

First Assignment Form

Name	Professor Magee
Course	Contemporary Race Law and Evolving Notions of (In)Equality
<u>Required Text/Reading</u>	Moran and Carbado (eds.), Race Law Stories, Foundation Press (2008).
<u>1st Assignment</u>	<p>Please read pages 1- 18 in the Moran and Carbado reader.</p> <p>“Race and Law in the News” exercise:</p> <p>(1) Please identify and bring to class a summary or reference to a news item or article in the popular press which arises at the intersection of race and law. Select some article that makes you feel something – anger, joy, fear, sadness, confusion. As we will discuss in class, emotions can tell us a lot about what is going on socially, intellectually, legally and politically, so we will work to become more comfortable acknowledging and learning from our emotional reactions as we work together this semester.</p> <p>(2) Please write a 1-2 page (double spaced) reflection paper, addressing the following questions about your reading and research assignments:</p> <p>a) About the reading: for each main subsection, what are the authors’ main points? What one question would you pose to me or to your classmates about it?</p> <p>b) The following questions all address the article you identified in your research. What law or legal policy is at the heart of this issue? What are some of the ways that race is relevant? What races or racial groups are impacted by this law or policy? In what ways are these groups impacted by this law or policy?</p>

	<p>c) What feelings arise in you as you reflect on both pages 1-18 in the Carbadó text, and the issue you researched?</p>
<p><u>Brief Note to Students</u></p>	<p>Welcome to the study of Race and Law in contemporary America. In this class we will look at the role of law and public policy in creating our understandings and misunderstandings about race. Through an examination of cases and other materials, we will identify the key themes that have helped to construct and deconstruct race and racism through law over American history, and consider how those dynamics and themes continue to recur. We will examine what we can do, as members of the legal profession, to minimize the role of bias in the profession – in the practice of law, and the nature of law itself. Perhaps most importantly, and as a foundation that will support us in this work throughout the semester, we will work on becoming more aware of each of our roles in all of this, raising our individual and collective awareness by working to raise our awareness and deepen our understanding on 3 levels: intra-personally (within ourselves); inter-personally (between and among one another); and inter-systemically. Ultimately, we will intentionally co-create an experience of diverse, identity-safe learning community, capable of more effectively addressing and dismantling race-based patterns of oppression through law and public policy, and through this work, more effectively tackling other multidimensional and interlocking oppressions as well.</p> <p>I look forward to working with each of you!</p>