

The Politics of Race: First Week's Assignment

There is no text for this course. Reading material will be available on the course TWEN page. A schedule of student paper topics and presentations will be distributed after the first week of class.

Assignment, week one:

TWEN: Submit your e-mail address to the course TWEN page by following the links at www.lawschool.westlaw.com. You do **not** need to submit your e-mail to me directly.

The Nature of Racism

Read and prepare to discuss the material below, accessible by following the links on TWEN, under "The Nature of Racism" on the left sidebar. Note that some documents take a minute to upload, so be patient. Also, once you click the title of the document, a new window will open. From there, click the small paperclip icon next to the document title for access.

1. Aversive Racism and Intergroup Bias, Gaertner and Dovidio
2. Stereotypes and Their Implications for Intergroup Relations, Mindola et al.
3. The Id, The Ego and Equal Protection, Charles L. Lawrence
4. Defining Racism, Beverly Daniel Tatum

Student Commentary

To facilitate class participation, a "Discussion" forum on TWEN is accessible from the left sidebar. Here you can comment and reflect on the week's readings, and respond to posts by other students. The purpose of the forum is to stimulate discussion, so the substance of your posts will not be graded. You are required, however, to submit a post on at least 10 of the assigned readings/presentations in order to receive credit for completing the assignment. To receive credit, posts must be submitted prior to 6:00 pm the Sunday before class.

In preparation for our first class discussion, consider the following questions as they relate to the readings on **Intergroup Bias, Stereotypes and Racism**:

- Define each of these terms, and their relationship to each other?
- What micro and macro purposes do stereotypes serve? In other words, at a cognitive level, what role does a stereotype play in a chance encounter with someone new? Alternatively, at a societal level, how do stereotypes influence interactions and perceptions between different groups of people?
- What is the difference between dominative racism and aversive racism?
- Consider race-based Equal Protection cases, where "intentional discrimination" must be shown in order to trigger heightened scrutiny. What kinds of cases fall into this category? Is the intent standard designed to remedy the problem of stereotypes and/or racism? Start to think about these important questions this week, even though we will discuss them in depth with reference to specific cases as the course proceeds.

I look forward to meeting all of you when classes begin next week.

