(How) do our legal institutions perpetuate racism?

What, if anything, should be done to eliminate it?

This course doesn’t promise answers to both of these questions. But if you take it, you’ll know what the best empirical work has to say about the first and be able to analyze proposed answers to the second.

We’ll investigate these questions with special attention given to the role of race in the criminal justice system as well as residential racial segregation. Time permitting, we’ll look at education. We’ll read legal and philosophical texts, as well as empirical work on the history and effects of legislation. Assessment is based on weekly discussion contributions, two short written assignments, and a final project.

If you’d like a jump on the course, check out the following:

[Images of recommended books]