Legal History and Public Policy: Law, Reconstruction and Memory

SPEA-V 339  
Professor Luis Fuentes-Rohwer  
Course Number 33385  
Spring 2015

Class Meeting Time  
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15 am – 12:30 pm

Classroom  
Briscoe BQ C135

Instructor Email  
lfr@indiana.edu

Course description:

This course will expose students to the way that race has shaped the American Constitutional experience, from colonial times and the slave trade through the founding and the early 19th century. Most of our focus will be on the First Reconstruction, which took place from approximately 1865 to 1877. The course will conclude around the year 1915, with a viewing of Birth of a Nation.

Reading materials for the course will include primary sources, such as newspaper accounts, congressional debates and presidential addresses; court cases; and secondary sources. The materials will all be available through canvas. Assignments will include short papers, quizzes, and a final exam. Students will have access to some of the questions for the final exam early in the semester.

Luis Fuentes-Rohwer is the Harry T. Ice Faculty fellow at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, where he teaches and writes in the areas of civil rights and legal history, with a particular emphasis on constitutional law and the Reconstruction Era. His scholarship focuses on the intersection of race and democratic theory, as reflected in the law of democracy in general and the Voting Rights Act in particular. He is interested in the way that institutions—and especially courts—are asked to craft and implement the ground rules of American politics. He received a J.D. and a Ph.D from the University of Michigan and an LLM from Georgetown. He joined the faculty in 2002.