

Critical Race Studies J.D. Specialization

The Critical Race Studies Specialization attracts top students committed to advancing new ideas for racial and social justice.

BUSINESS LAW & POLICY
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/SPECIALIZATION S/BUSINESS-LAW-POLICY-SPECIALIZATIONS)

→ **CRITICAL RACE STUDIES**
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PUBLIC INTEREST LAW & POLICY
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/SPECIALIZATION S/JD-SPECIALIZATION-PUBLIC-INTEREST-LAW-POLICY)

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/SPECIALIZATION S/ENVIRONMENTAL-LAW)

INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/JD-SPECIALIZATIONS/JD-SPECIALIZATION-INTERNATIONAL-COMPARATIVE-LAW)

LAW & PHILOSOPHY
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/SPECIALIZATION S/LAW-PHILOSOPHY-JD-SPECIALIZATION)

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT
(/ACADEMICS/DEGREES/JD-PROGRAM/SPECIALIZATION S/MEDIA-ENTERTAINMENT-SPECIALIZATION-JD)

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The Critical Race Studies J.D. Specialization deepens our understanding of race and provide tools and strategies to further civil rights and human rights across the globe. In particular, the specialization trains students to both analyze how the law and legal institutions erect racial hierarchies and how to dismantle those same hierarchies. The CRS specialization is appropriate for law students who seek further understanding on issues of inequality and race and the law.

Alumni of the Critical Race Studies program have found that the critical analysis skills that they gain through the specialization are applicable to a number of fields. While many alumni work in areas directly related to racial and/or social justice, our graduates' careers have included work in public interest organizations, corporate law firms, academia, government agencies and more.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Critical Race Studies

As the first program of its kind in the nation, we prepare students for impactful careers in racial justice advocacy.

→ **LEARN MORE** (/ACADEMICS/AREAS/CRITICAL-RACE-STUDIES)

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Critical Race Studies

Led by renowned scholars, this program is the premier setting for studying the intersection of race and the law.

Enrolling in the CRS Specialization

Contact

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PROSPECTIVE J.D. STUDENTS

Prospective students can apply to the program through the general UCLA Law School admissions process. Under “programmatic contribution,” you may list Critical Race Studies. We recommend that you detail your relevant background in the area as well as how you imagine a Critical Race Studies specialization will impact your law school and professional career. Your statement can include relevant coursework, research, extracurricular activities, personal and professional experiences. As the application form has limited space, you may append additional pages as necessary. Please note that the CRS statement is not the same as a diversity statement.

CURRENT J.D. STUDENTS

If you did not apply to the program through the general admissions process, you may enroll at the end of your first year of law school. In the spring semester, the Critical Race Studies program will hold an information program, where we will discuss the specialization requirements as well as the application form.

You may also contact crs@law.ucla.edu (mailto:crs@law.ucla.edu) for more information and to be placed on our student mailing list at any time during the school year.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

To enroll in the CRS Specialization, please email crs@law.ucla.edu (mailto:crs@law.ucla.edu) as soon as possible. Transfer students are also entitled to priority enrollment in the core courses. However, since transfer admissions decisions are made after UCLA Law first-year students have elected into the specialization, you may not be able to exercise priority enrollment options in the fall semester of your second year. To increase your options, please be as diligent as possible.

LL.M. STUDENTS

Candidates for the Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree at UCLA Law may apply for [Specialization in Critical Race Studies](https://law.ucla.edu/academics/degrees/llm-program/specializations/critical-race-studies) (https://law.ucla.edu/academics/degrees/llm-program/specializations/critical-race-studies). Please contact the [CRS program director](mailto:crs@law.ucla.edu) (mailto:crs@law.ucla.edu) for more information.

Curriculum

The CRS curriculum provides a unique combination of depth and breadth. In-depth instruction in civil rights and race theory are taught by professors who built the intellectual foundations of the field. Also, courses addressing specific racial groups and other forms of social hierarchies provide rich comparative analyses. This approach helps us understand that we live in a multiracial world with intersecting and overlapping forms of subordination.



COURSES IN FULFILLMENT OF THE CRITICAL RACE STUDIES SPECIALIZATION

Overview: Students are required to take five (5) courses to complete the program, including two (2) core courses, one (1) course in comparative analysis, two (2) applied courses (one doctrine and one practice) AND fulfill the writing requirement. This requirement is further described below under the subheading CRS Writing Requirement. The cumulative GPA within these courses must be a B- or higher in order to gain the Critical Race Studies certification. Students can use an externship in place of the applied practice course.

Note: A course fulfilling a requirement MUST be at least 3 units. The ONLY exceptions will be for courses fulfilling the Practice or Doctrine requirement, in which you may use two or more courses to add up to three units. For example, you may take a 1-unit and a 2-unit course OR three 1-unit courses, all approved for the Practice requirement, to fulfill that requirement. You may NOT use a course under 3 units to fulfill the Comparative Analysis requirement.



CORE COURSES (BOTH COURSES ARE REQUIRED.)

(Note that it is highly recommended that these courses be taken in the 2L year and be taken before embarking on the writing requirement.)

LAW 214

Civil Rights



LAW 266

Critical Race Theory



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS REQUIREMENT (ONE COURSE)

Note: as an exception for the spring 2023 semester, **LAW 217: Legal Philosophy.**

(https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcurriculum.law.ucla.edu%2FGuide%2FInstructorCourse%2F13920%3Fi%3D10004&data=05%7C01%7Chaghighatgoo%40law.ucla.edu%7C1237f29525854cec762308dab6ef62d6%7Ce10a3d0fa4fc479d9a50c35e3f9e9bb5%7C0%7C0%7C638023436519577378%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikh1aWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=7nifY0NiN9hlqgcV82%2FfLw6lQBdrUhfZwFYy4VcTil%3D&reserve_d=0) will be accepted as a qualifying course for the comparative analysis course fulfillment. The topic for this course during the spring 2023 semester will be “Law, Race, and Political Crisis”.

(The courses below provide students with a range of opportunities to study inequality and the law comparatively. Some of the courses (e.g., immigration law) require students to analyze antidiscrimination problems outside of standard antidiscrimination legal frames (such as equal protection or Title VII jurisprudence). Other courses (e.g., sexual orientation and the law) require students to engage social cate-

gories other than race. Still other courses (e.g., Federal Indian Law) enable students to think deeply about how law structures the experiences of a particular racial group. Students are required to take one course from the list below.)

LAW 260

Labor Law & Collective Action



LAW 263

Employment Discrimination Law



LAW 267

Federal Indian Law



LAW 273

International Human Rights Law



LAW 282

Education Law & Policy



LAW 301

Art and Cultural Property Law



LAW 316

Disability Law



LAW 318

Law, Gender, and Sexuality



LAW 325

Public Benefits Law and Anti-Poverty Policy



LAW 331

Immigration Law



LAW 389

Prison Law and Policy



LAW 444

Indigenous Peoples in International Law



LAW 503

Current Topics in Criminal Law



LAW 537

Low-Wage Workers



LAW 542

Race, Sexuality, and the Law



LAW 566

Laws of War (International Humanitarian Law)



LAW 584

Human Rights and Sexual Politics



LAW 603

Noncitizens in the Criminal Legal System



LAW 617

Special Topics in Family Law



LAW 619

Environmental Justice Law



LAW 625

Community Lawyering and Low Wage Worker Organizing



LAW 645

Race Conscious Remedies



LAW 653

Advanced Critical Race Theory



LAW 655

Feminist Legal Theory



LAW 656

Race, Law and Curriculum



LAW 677

Muslims, Race and Law



LAW 690

Race, Social Psychology, and the Legal Process



LAW 963

Employment Discrimination



APPLIED COURSES REQUIREMENT - DOCTRINE

(choose at least ONE Applied Course from this list)

The courses below provide a basis for applying the central themes in critical race theory to specific areas of the law and to practical legal settings. The courses listed in **Doctrine** provide students with a sound grasp of the laws and policies that govern specific areas of practice.

LAW 202



Criminal Procedure: Investigations

LAW 211

Evidence



LAW 212

Federal Courts



LAW 216

Administrative Law



LAW 220

Introduction to Federal Income Taxation



LAW 230

Business Associations



LAW 260

Labor Law & Collective Action



LAW 261

Employment Law



LAW 263

Employment Discrimination Law



LAW 267

Federal Indian Law



LAW 270

Public International Law



LAW 273

International Human Rights Law



LAW 282

Education Law & Policy



LAW 285

Local Government Law



LAW 286

Land Use



LAW 290

Environmental Law and Policy



LAW 295

Criminal Procedure: Adjudication



LAW 299

Federal White Collar Crime



LAW 301

Art and Cultural Property Law



LAW 312

Professional Responsibility



LAW 316

Disability Law



LAW 317



Family Law

LAW 325

Public Benefits Law and Anti-Poverty Policy



LAW 331

Immigration Law



LAW 338

Islamic Jurisprudence



LAW 363

Tax - Exempt Organizations



LAW 383

Political Asylum and Refugee Law



LAW 389

Prison Law and Policy



LAW 429

Capital Punishment in America



LAW 432

International and Comparative Sports Law



LAW 443

Comparative Environmental Law



LAW 484

Information Privacy and Data Protection



LAW 504

Law, Technology, and Society



LAW 508

Intro to Food Law and Policy



LAW 527

Natural Resources Law



LAW 537

Low-Wage Workers



LAW 629

Topics in Post-Conviction Law & Policy



LAW 660

Cities in Distress



LAW 667

Voting Rights



LAW 671

Comparative Education: Law and Policy



APPLIED COURSES REQUIREMENT - PRACTICE

(choose at least ONE Applied Course from this list)

The courses below provide a basis for applying the central themes in critical race theory to specific areas of the law and to practical legal settings. The courses listed in **Practice** are designed to expose students to the practical application of laws and policies to concrete social issues and actual legal settings.

LAW 317



Family Law

LAW 376

Law and Dissent



LAW 541

Problem Solving in the Public Interest



LAW 617

Special Topics in Family Law



LAW 625

Community Lawyering and Low Wage Worker Organizing



LAW 693

Food Litigation: Consumer Protection, Regulation, and Class Actions



LAW 701

Prisoners' Rights Clinic



LAW 712

Street Law--Youth & Education



LAW 715

Criminal Defense Clinic



LAW 717

International Human Rights Clinic



LAW 719

Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic



LAW 720

Criminal Trial Advocacy



LAW 728

Tribal Legal Development Clinic



LAW 730

Veterans Justice Clinic: Poverty, Homelessness & Criminalization



LAW 731

Community Lawyering in Education Clinic



LAW 738

California Environmental Legislation and Policy Clinic



LAW 739

Community Economic Development Clinic



LAW 750

Youth & Justice Clinic



LAW 762

Appellate Advocacy: Moot Court Competitions



LAW 773

Immigrants' Rights Policy Clinic



LAW 792

Immigrant Family Legal Clinic



LAW 810



Practicum

LAW 832

Voting Rights Policy and Practice →

LAW 834

Law, Organizing, and Low-Wage Workers →

LAW 835

Pay or Stay: An Exploration of the Bail System in America →

LAW 972

Negotiation Theory & Practice (J-Term) →

LAW 977

Advanced Trial Advocacy →



CRS WRITING REQUIREMENT

Papers used to fulfill the CRS Writing Requirement must be sufficient to meet the law school's Substantial Analytical Writing (SAW) requirement. Papers used to fulfill the CRS Writing Requirement must engage substantially with race or racism, and they must employ critical race scholarship or concepts typical of critical race scholarship in its analysis. NOTE: You can also use the CRS paper to fulfill the law school's writing requirement (and/or the writing requirement for another specialization). You may meet the CRS Writing Requirement with a paper written for any course or seminar that you use to fulfill a CRS Course Requirement.

You may fulfill the CRS Writing Requirement, as described above, in one of the following ways:

1. Any Course or Independent Research with CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty Member.

You may use writing in ANY course taught by a CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty member to fulfill the writing requirement with the approval of that faculty member.

As an alternative to fulfilling this requirement by writing a paper within an approved course or seminar, you may enroll under the supervision of a CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty member in a minimum of three (3) units of Independent Research (Law 340) or a Law Review Comment (Law 341) and produce a paper that meets the same standards. You MUST inform the CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty Member when you register for academic credit for the paper that you intend to use the paper to fulfill the CRS Writing Requirement.

If in the view of the CRS Core or Affiliated faculty member that the paper fulfills the CRS Writing

Requirement, no other approval is necessary. [List of CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty Members](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.law.ucla.edu%2Facademics%2Fcenters%2Fcritical-race-studies&data=05%7C01%7Cchaghighatgoo%40law.ucla.edu%7C17d331e9f2fd425facda08dab3d10446%7Ce10a3d0fa4fc479d9a50c35e3f9e9bb5%7C0%7C0%7C638020007555325480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljoiv2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLjJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iUS4ZNeGtm4cTLuCUUpG4dhdwAR9UBOV46QCz0ZOGmH0%3D&reserved=0). (<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.law.ucla.edu%2Facademics%2Fcurriculum&data=05%7C01%7Cchaghighatgoo%40law.ucla.edu%7C17d331e9f2fd425facda08dab3d10446%7Ce10a3d0fa4fc479d9a50c35e3f9e9bb5%7C0%7C0%7C638020007555325480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljoiv2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLjJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iUS4ZNeGtm4cTLuCUUpG4dhdwAR9UBOV46QCz0ZOGmH0%3D&reserved=0>)

2. Course or Independent Research with non-CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty Members.

For courses or independent research with non-CRS Core or Affiliated Faculty, you may petition for pre-approval by submitting a description of the writing project to the CRS Executive Director. To fulfill the CRS writing requirement, the paper must engage with race or racism and employ critical race scholarship or concepts typical of critical race scholarship in its analysis. You should note that we may decide that pre-approval cannot be given and that a decision will be made once you submit a completed paper. Please contact the CRS Executive Director for any questions.



NOTES

1. Please refer to the [Course List](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.law.ucla.edu%2Facademics%2Fcurriculum&data=05%7C01%7Cchaghighatgoo%40law.ucla.edu%7C17d331e9f2fd425facda08dab3d10446%7Ce10a3d0fa4fc479d9a50c35e3f9e9bb5%7C0%7C0%7C638020007555325480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljoiv2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLjJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rpKYWqvgW8s%2FocvVWBMvc4MniYLO2gfPzeKE0FRZn8%3D&reserved=0) (<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.law.ucla.edu%2Facademics%2Fcurriculum&data=05%7C01%7Cchaghighatgoo%40law.ucla.edu%7C17d331e9f2fd425facda08dab3d10446%7Ce10a3d0fa4fc479d9a50c35e3f9e9bb5%7C0%7C0%7C638020007555325480%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljoiv2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLjJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rpKYWqvgW8s%2FocvVWBMvc4MniYLO2gfPzeKE0FRZn8%3D&reserved=0>) to determine which of the courses listed above will be offered during the current school year.
2. The course requirements list is reviewed and updated on a periodic basis by the CRS faculty.
3. In limited instances, the CRS Faculty Director(s) will consider a student's petition to have a course count towards certification even if it is not on the relevant course list in these requirements. You should send an email to the Program Director, citing the language of the relevant requirement, describing how the course meets the requirement, and attaching course syllabi or other relevant materials.
4. Any course or paper used to fulfill a CRS Specialization Requirement may also be used to fulfill another requirement imposed by the law school or another specialization. (For example, the same course may count towards a CRS Course Requirement as well as a Public Interest Law and Policy requirement.)