Course Description:
In this class we will critically address the ways race and even class intersect with the law. We will be focusing on the way law has been used to marginalize Native American people as well as how it has been used by Native American people to protect their civil, social and treaty rights in a colonial sphere. Older versions of Native American history often eviscerate Native peoples as agents in their own stories by focusing heavily on the colonial encroachment on their lands and lifestyles. But, history is always a complex interplay of factors and is never stagnant. Change is a constant, and Native American peoples made group and individual choices throughout the 18th-21st centuries to ensure the changes occurring around them would not destroy them.

Though Native Americans and the law will be the major focus for this class, we will also draw upon the experiences of African Americans, Latino/Latina (and immigrant groups) as well as Hawaiians and the law in order to compare and contrast the different experiences of various minority groups in the United States. African American experience with the American legal system has been fraught with the struggle to attain civil equality, to end segregation, and to gain the protections of citizenship. Other minority groups have struggled with many of the same issues. Native Hawaiians perhaps share the most in common with the Native American legal experience as their movement has not been one to obtain civil equality, but instead has been one to maintain self-determination and control over lands and resources in a colonial context.

General Ed/Focus Requirements:
Diversification—Social Science (DS), Ethical Issues (ETH), & Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Issues (HAP)

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