

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry Emory University

2023-2024 Great Works Seminar



The ABCs of CRT

Moderated by Dilek Huseyinzedegan, Associate Professor of Philosophy

February 15, 22, and 29, 2024
6pm-8pm

Critical Race Theory (CRT) has become a buzzword in public discourse in the past eight years. But what is it? How did it come to dominate educational policies around what American history children learn in schools? What does it have to do with the gains of the Civil Rights Movement? Why did it become so controversial?

Derrick H. Bell, founder of this branch of legal theory, once said that CRT means “telling the truth, even in the face of criticism.” This seminar will introduce you to what Critical Race Theory is in three parts. Throughout lecture and discussions, participants will gain an interdisciplinary humanistic perspective on the history and contemporary significance of this field.

“**A**” stands for American History and the phrase “All Men Are Created Equal.” We will read and discuss the ideals espoused in the founding documents of the U.S.A., including *The Declaration of the Independence* and *the Bill of Rights* in light of the historical developments of this era.

“**B**” stands for Derrick H. Bell and “Brown v Board of Education.” We will read selections from Professor Bell’s work, including *Silent Covenants* and *The Space Traders* and discuss the success of the Civil Rights movement.

“**C**” stands for Combahee River Collective and Kimberlé Crenshaw. We will read the *Combahee River Collective Statement* (1977) as well as Professor Crenshaw’s works on Identity Politics and Intersectionality and discuss how they resonate in our current social and political climate.

This Great Works Seminar will meet at **The Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry @ Emory University** from **6pm-8pm** on the following **Thursday** evenings: **February 15, 22 & 29, 2024**. Participants are expected to attend all three sessions. For further information and to reserve a spot on a “first-come basis,” email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.