

**IDH 2930 Section: 3130**

**Thursday Period 10 (5:10-6:00pm)**

**Hume 0119**

**Instructor: Matthew Paul Cowley, M.Ed.**

**Email: [matthewpaulc@ufl.edu](mailto:matthewpaulc@ufl.edu)**

**Office Hours:** By request – Please email me to schedule an appointment

**Required Texts:**

McGhee, H. (2021). *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*. New York: One World.

Other minor readings will be made available via Canvas or E-mail.

**Book & Course Overview**

*The Sum of Us* explores the "common denominator of our most vexing public problems and the core dysfunction of our democracy" - racism - through the lens of economics. McGhee argues that racism has costs for everyone - including white people. The text employs the stories from the victims of white supremacy and economic and sociological research to explore how we got to where we are today and tabulate what is lost when we buy into the narrative that progress for some of us must come at the expense of others.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students in this class will:

- 1) Learn to identify and uncover the hidden costs of racism to all Americans
- 2) Gain a working understanding of the zero-sum paradigm and why it remains a dominant social belief
- 3) Understand the practical role solidarity plays in building a better future.

**Assignments & Expectations**

- **Class Participation (30%)** | Students are expected to attend class and provide meaningful contributions to the class discussion. Attendance, evidence that the student is prepared for class, and earnestly participating in the dialogue will comprise a significant amount of the student's final grade.
- **Journals (20%)** | Students will submit four journal entries to Canvas over the course of the semester. Journals are expected to reflect on and respond (both intellectually and emotionally) to the chapters read since the last journal entry. Students are encouraged to connect the readings to other literature, popular media, or personal experiences. Journal entries should be between 1-2 double-spaced pages (12-point standard font style). Journal entries will be due at 11:59pm on Monday after class meets each week.
- **Midterm (20%)** | "The Zero-Sum Paradigm" - Students are asked to define the zero-sum paradigm and identify a policy, practice, or procedure that they believe to be a result of zero-sum thinking. The policy, procedure, or practice may be from local, state, or national law/legislation; organizational, corporate, or university policy; or another reasonable source. Students should outline how the policy or practice is evidence of zero-sum thinking and how it leads to disparities amongst racial groups. Claims should be supported by reputable data or peer-reviewed research. The midterm paper should be between 3-4 double-spaced pages (12-point standard font style).
- **Final Paper (30%)** | "Building Solidarity for the Future" - Students are asked to reflect on the whole of McGhee's text and discuss how they see their role in creating a future without racism. Students should consider their future career/profession, civic/community engagement, family, and other relevant aspects of their lives. *The Sum of Us* should serve as the primary source for this paper, but students should incorporate sources from other academic journal articles, books, popular media, and personal experiences. Final papers should be between 5-6 double-spaced pages (12-point standard font style).

**Alternatively**, students may propose a creative project to serve as their final. Projects must be approved by the instructor. Projects must include a short whitepaper (1-2 pages) outlining the purpose of their project, describing their approach, and reflecting on their plans, successes, challenges, and progress.

Date	Reading	Due
January 6 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions & Course Overview	
January 13 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction & Chapter 1	
January 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 2 – Racism Drained the Pool	Journal Entry Due
January 27 <sup>st</sup>	Chapter 3 – Going Without	
February 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 4 – Ignoring the Canary	
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5 – No One Fights Alone	Journal Entry Due
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6 – Never a Real Democracy	
February 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7 – Living Apart	
March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 8 – The Same Sky	MIDTERM DUE
March 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Spring Break – NO CLASS</b>	
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9 – The Hidden Wound	
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 10 – The Solidarity Dividend	Journal Entry Due
March 31 <sup>st</sup>	Reviewing the Notes	
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Students Share Final Papers/Project Ideas	
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Student Work on Final Paper/Projects – NO CLASS</b>	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Reading Days – NO CLASS</b>	
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Exams – NO CLASS</b>	FINAL PAPER DUE

## Grades

94.0 – 100 A	77.0 – 79.9 C+
90.0 – 93.9 A-	70.0 – 73.9 C
87.0 – 89.9 B+	67.0 – 69.9 D+
84.0 – 86.9 B	64.0 – 66.9 D
80.0 – 83.9 B-	60.0 – 63.9 D

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

[UF Graduate Catalog](#)  
[Grades and Grading Policies](#)

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and is a significant percentage of students' final grade. Students should make every effort to communicate with the instructor for accommodations related to attendance and assignment due dates. Official policies for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

**Class Recording:** Class meetings will be facilitated in-person. To create a safe environment conducive to learning and growth, students are asked not to audio or video record class meeting.

### Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On

my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

### **Student Privacy**

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

### **Campus Resources:**

#### Health and Wellness

##### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** [counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](http://counseling.ufl.edu/cwc), and 392-1575

##### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or [police.ufl.edu](http://police.ufl.edu).

#### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

**Library Support**, Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

**Writing Studio**, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

**Student Complaints Campus**

**On-Line Students Complaints**