



SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Presents

CRITICAL RACE THEORY 101

Dr Justin De Senso
and
Dr Jessica Shocker – Zolotsky
of Penn State Berks

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2020
7:00 PM via Zoom
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Speaker Bios

Justin DeSenso, PhD

Dr. DeSenso is an Assistant Teaching Professor of English and African American Studies at Penn State Berks. He earned his Ph.D. in American Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He has taught at Penn State Berks since 2014 after teaching and lecturing at colleges and universities across the US, including the University of Florida, Drexel University, and El Paso Community College. His teaching and research passions span the humanities and social sciences, with an emphasis on first-year composition, theories of race and racism, and post-World War II history and culture. His work also focuses on Black police labor and activism. In 2016, in collaboration with the Center for Service Learning and Community-Based Research, he began "The Reading Police Oral History Project," a student-authored publication that documents the lives of local City of Reading cops. In 2017, he co-founded the Berks Hip-Hop Collective, a faculty-staff-student initiative that champions hip-hop at Berks through curricula, visual art, and free-style rhyme. In 2018, he co-created and now teaches two integrative studies courses, Critical Race Theory in the Humanities and Social Sciences and Critical Approaches to Hip-Hop. He also co-leads the Social Justice Collaborative at Penn State Berks.



Jessica Shocker-Zolotsky, PhD



Dr. Schocker is an Associate Professor of Social Studies Education and Women's Studies at Penn State Berks. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at Temple University. She teaches several courses in the education program as well as general education classes in Women's History and Critical Race Theory. Dr. Schocker's integrated research, teaching, and service projects are based on promoting social justice in urban education. She and her students have been involved in a number of service learning and community based research projects with the Reading School District and the greater Reading community. During the spring semester of 2014, for example, Dr. Schocker worked with a team of Penn State Berks students to develop an interdisciplinary, inquiry based learning experience for the children at Glenside Elementary School through the growing of an urban community garden. Dr. Schocker's other scholarly interests

include the teaching of women's history with images and primary source documents and the inclusion of women of color in the history curriculum. Along with Dr. DeSenso, Dr. Shocker co-leads the Social Justice Collaborative at Penn State Berks.