

PHIL 32277: PHILOSOPHY OF RACE
Fall 2014
MW 11:00-12:15pm Location NAC 6/121

Professor Jennifer M. Morton
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Office: NAC 5/136C Phone: x7637
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30pm & by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Race plays a prominent role in how we define a diverse society and how individuals therein identify themselves. In this course, we approach questions of race from a philosophical perspective. The topic of race broaches questions in metaphysics, moral philosophy, political philosophy, and applied ethics. We will consider questions such as: What is race? Is it a biological category, a social construction, or a fiction? What is racism? What do we owe those who have been the victims of racism? What role, if any, should race play in our moral and political theorizing? Is racial profiling ever justified?

PREREQUISITES: An introductory level philosophy course (Phil 10200, Phil 30000, Phil 20100, or Phil 20200) is strongly recommended.

READING: All readings will be available through Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Every week, you will be required to turn in a 1-2 page polished reading response based on a prompt I will post on Blackboard. Be ready to share your reading response with the rest of class. You are also responsible for one in-class exam, one short paper, one short student presentation, and one longer final paper. You will have the option to rewrite your final paper. Most importantly, you are expected to attend every meeting and actively participate in class discussion.

10 Weekly Reading Responses	25%
Paper #1 (2-3 pp)	15%
Exam	15%
Paper #2 (5-6 pp)	30%
Student Presentation	5%
Participation & Attendance	10%

A	95-99%
A-	90-94%
B+	85-89%
B	80-84%
B-	75-79%
C+	70-74%
C	65-69%
C-	60-64%
D	51-59%
F	0-50

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: **NO LATE Reading responses** will be accepted (no exceptions!). You will, however, be allowed to make-up 1 reading response during the last week of class. Late papers will only be accepted in cases of emergency AND arrangements must be made with me at least **48 hours in advance**. No exams will be issued after the exam date, except for in extreme medical circumstances with a doctor's note.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS: A printed copy **AND** an electronic copy (via Safe Assign) should be submitted.

ATTENDANCE: **Regular attendance is required.** You will be granted up to **3 absences** throughout the term, any absences above that number will affect your grade significantly. If you arrive **late to class**, you **must** contribute to the class discussion in the form of a **thoughtful** question or comment in order to count as having attended the class. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late to class, feel free to stay but you will be marked as absent.

PLAGIARISM: You will receive **no credit** for a plagiarized assignment and your participation grade will be significantly lowered. Any act of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be subject to penalties in conformity with the College's policy on Academic Integrity. (http://www1.cuny.cuny.edu/facultystaff/provost/policies_integrity.cfm),

LEARNING COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course you should: (1) Be able to identify and debate central issues in the philosophy of race (2) Draw connections between issues in other areas of philosophy and philosophy of race (3) Apply your knowledge of philosophical issues concerning race to real world cases (4) Defend a philosophical position concerning an issue covered in the course in an academic paper.

	Date	Reading	Assignment
	W 9/3	Introduction	
Reading	What Is Race?		
	M 9/8	DuBois, W.E., "The Conservation of Races" and "Of our Spiritual Strivings"	RR #1
	W 9/10	Appiah, Anthony K., "Race, Culture, and Identity" (pp. 53-101)	
Critical Analysis	M 9/15	Appiah, Anthony K., "Race, Culture, and Identity" (pp. 102-136)	RR #2
	W 9/17	Mallon, Ron, "'Race': Normative, Not Metaphysical or Semantic"	
	M 9/22	Haslanger, Sally, "Gender and race: (What) are they?(What) do we want them to be?"	RR #3
	W 9/24	NO CLASS	
	M 9/29	Alcoff, Linda, "Is Latino a Racial Identity?"	RR #4
	Racism		
	W 10/1	Garcia, Jorge LA., "The heart of racism"	Paper #1 Topic
	M 10/6	Mills, Charles W., "'Heart' Attack: A Critique of Jorge Garcia's Volitional Conception of Racism."	
	W 10/8	Bertrand and Mullainathan, "Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination"	Paper #1 Due
	M 10/13	NO CLASS	
Defending an Argument	Racial Solidarity		
	W 10/15	Mansbridge, Jane, "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'"	
	M 10/20	Shelby, Tommie, "Foundations of Black Solidarity: Collective Identity or Common Oppression?"	RR #5
	Epistemology and Race		
	W 10/22	Fricker, Miranda, "Rational authority and social power: Towards a truly social epistemology."	
	M 10/27	Mills, Charles W., " Alternative Epistemologies"	RR #6
	Reparations		
	W 10/29	Waldron, Jeremy, " Superseding Historic Injustice"	
	M 11/3	Coates, Ta-Nehisi, "The Case for Reparations"	RR #7
	W 11/5	Horowitz, David, "Ten Reasons Why Reparations for Blacks is a Bad Idea for Blacks - and Racist Too"	
M 11/10	In-Class Exam		
Objections	Education and Race		
	W 11/12	DuBois, W.E., "The Talented Tenth"/Anderson, Elizabeth. "Fair Opportunity in Education: A Democratic Equality Perspective"	
	M 11/17	Blum, Larry, "Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Racial Justice: Reflections from a Non-Elite University"	RR #8
	W 11/19	Morton, Jennifer, "Culture Code-Switching: Straddling the Achievement Gap"	
	Crime and Race		
	M 11/24	Risse, Mathias, and Richard Zeckhauser. "Racial profiling"	RR #9
	W 11/26	Lippert-Rasmussen, Kasper, "Racial profiling versus community"	
	M 12/1	Shelby, Tommie, "Justice, deviance, and the dark ghetto"	RR #10
	Bioethics and Race		
	W 12/3	Paper Workshop	
M 12/8	Burchard et. Al, "The importance of race and ethnic background in biomedical research and clinical practice"	Paper #2 Due	
W 12/10	Root, Michael, "The use of race as a proxy in medicine for genetic differences"		
Wrap-Up			
M 12/15	TBA	RR Make-Up	
M 12/22	Paper #2 Rewrite Due		