

PHIL 3506

(Critical) Philosophy of Race

Marquette University | Fall 2020 | Tuesday and Thursday 11am -12:15pm | Location TBA

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OVERVIEW

Race (and race related ideas) play an important role in how one defines a diverse society and how individuals identify themselves. This survey course will examine the philosophical discussion of race, racism, and racial identity from the perspective of the emergent sub-field known as “Critical Philosophy of Race.”

FORMAT

Each class meeting consists of structured discussion of the reading for the given week and topic for the unit. Usually there is only one reading in a given week. On two occasions there are two readings that complement each other. They are marked by an asterisk on the reading schedule.

OBJECTIVES

Course

1. Understand the arguments of philosophers on race, racism, and racial identity.
2. Evaluate the arguments of philosophers on race, racism, and racial identity.
3. Demonstrate critical reflection on race, racism, and racial identity.

Skills

1. Exercise your analytical skills by critically identifying and evaluating arguments.
2. Increase your reading comprehension skills by regularly engaging philosophic texts by discussing them and summarizing their meaning.
3. Increase your verbal skills through participating in class discussion.
4. Improve your writing skills through written assignments.

REQUIREMENTS

The success of this course depends upon your regular contributions to class discussion. Course attendance is not optional. I expect you to attend every meeting and read all of the assigned readings *before class*. The reading load averages about 20-30 pages a week. When the reading is dense, you have less pages to read. When it is less dense (especially the contemporary articles), then you will have a bit more to read. There are two articles on the reading list, which complement the assigned philosophic reading, one is a biology article and the other a psychology article. I

expect you to focus on the findings of those studies. They are marked by an asterisk on the reading schedule.

TEXTS

All readings are available on the course website. I expect you to bring physical copies of the readings to class meetings.

ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment has a detailed explanation and a grading rubric on the course website. The due dates for assignments are on the schedule below and the calendar on the course website.

1. Reading Summaries (Total of 5 for a weight of 25%)
2. Discussion Response Sets (3 for a weight of 15%)
3. Exam 1 (20%)
4. Exam 2 (20%)
5. Exam 3 (20%)

GRADING SCALE

These are the *minimum* percentages you need to receive the letter grade.

A	94
A-	90
B+	88
B	85
B-	80
C+	77
C	74
C-	70
D	62
F	0

POLICIES

Absences

- Always email me if you will miss class.
- If you miss more than *four class meetings*, then I will automatically withdraw from the course. It appears as “WA” on the transcript. As this is a discussion-based class, you must attend to discuss the material and of course to adequately complete your assignments.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I expect familiarity with Marquette’s policies on academic honesty.

<https://www.marquette.edu/provost/academic-integrity.php>

Academic Freedom

- I encourage disagreement but I ask that you help to maintain a civil atmosphere by respecting the views of others.
- I do not factor the beliefs and ideas expressed in class or assignments into your grades. The grading rubrics make clear how I grade your assignments. I will challenge you with all due respect on the claims you make for *accuracy* and the conclusions you reach for *soundness and cogency*.
- I promote an open learning environment. If you think you have all the answers already, then this is not the course for you.

Disability Accommodations

- Disability accommodations are provided in compliance with the ADA and Marquette policy.
- A letter must accompany your request for accommodation from the Office of Disability Services for this course.

<https://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/>

Electronics

- Phones must be silenced during class.
- Computers and tablets are allowed for taking notes only. You should bring physical copies of the readings with you to class.

Email Etiquette

- Proper email etiquette is expected. A professional email to a professor should read (something like): “Hi Dr/Professor _____” and state your business clearly and without text-speak.
- You can always expect a reply to your email within 48 hours Monday through Friday.

Extra Credit

- I will drop the lowest grade for the reading summaries if and only if I do not catch anyone texting, on social media, emailing, or any other non-class related business during class time. If I do catch someone, then they will be immediately identified, and this extra credit is off the table.

Late Work

- Late work will be considered on a case by case basis.

SCHEDULE

Unit 1 | Race in the History of Philosophy

Week 1	Kant, "Of the Different Human Races"
Week 2	Hegel, "Anthropology"
Week 3	Du Bois, "The Conservation of Races" Reading Summary 1 Due (on Du Bois) via Dropbox
Week 4	Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument" Nei and Roychoudhury, "Genetic Relationship and Evolution of Human Races"*
Week 5	Discussion Responses Set 1 due via Dropbox Exam 1

Questions: What is race? Is it a biological reality, social reality, or both?

Unit 2 | Racism

Week 6	Appiah, "Racisms" Reading Summary 2 Due (on Appiah) via Dropbox
Week 7	Lauwers, "Is Islamophobia (Always) Racism?"
Week 8	Sartre, "Anti-Semitism"
Week 9	Fanon, "The Lived Experience of the Black Man" Chapman, "The Adverse Childhood Experiences Research Study"* Reading Summary 3 Due (on Fanon) via Dropbox
Week 10	Discussion Responses Set 2 due via Dropbox Exam 2

Questions: What is racism? What is anti-blackness? What is islamophobia? What is anti-semitism? What is xenophobia?

Unit 3 | Racial Identity

Week 11	Alcoff, "Is Latina/o a Racial Identity?" Reading Summary 4 Due (on Alcoff) via Dropbox
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Week 12	Botts, “A Mixed Race (Philosophical) Experience”
Week 13	Mills, “White Ignorance” Reading Summary 5 Due (on Mills) via Dropbox
Week 14	Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
Week 15	Discussion Responses Set 3 due via Dropbox Exam 3

Question: What role does race play in our individual expression, embodiment, and knowledge?