

PHI 6934 Philosophy of Race Graduate Seminar Fall 2022

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Office Hours: T: 1-2 in person or by [Zoom](#); R: 10:30-12 in person or by [Zoom](#), or by appointment

Class: R 3-6 PM in Griffin-Floyd Hall, room 200

Communication: please use email. Allow 24 hours for an answer.

Course Description

What are races? Are they biological, cultural, or parts of social hierarchies? How does race contribute to one's identity? What is the nature of racism, racial oppression, and racial stigmatization? What does race have to do with power? What is racial justice? We will elucidate these issues by engaging with some classic and contemporary work in philosophy of race and other disciplines starting with *The Racial Contract* (1997) by Charles Mills.

Required Book: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (1997)

Reading materials will be posted on Canvas unless there is a direct link to a copy on the internet. It is your responsibility to download them and read them.

Course Requirements

- Attendance & Participation 25%
- Two Seminar Presentations on Required Readings 20% (10% each)
- Short Prompted Paper 15%
- Final Seminar Paper 40%

S/U students are required to attend, verbally participate, make one seminar presentation, and contribute to the bi-weekly discussion board (details below).

Grading Scale

A	4.0	94-100	C	2.0	74-76
A-	3.67	90-93	C-	1.67	70-73
B+	3.33	87-89	D+	1.33	67-69
B	3.0	84-86	D	1.0	64-66
B-	2.67	80-83	D-	0.67	60-63
C+	2.33	77-79	E	0.0	0-59

Attendance & Participation

Both regular attendance and participation are essential to any graduate seminar. We are here to discuss course content and workshop our ideas together. But we are also here in a pandemic, and so we should anticipate distractions. If you need to be absent from our weekly meetings, please just let me know as soon as you can.

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
- If you are experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms** ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- **If you have Covid, or have any reason to believe you've been exposed, please do not come to class.**

Course participation will be assessed in two ways:

First, you are expected to come to class ready to discuss the required readings and to respond to class presentations (quality, not quantity). Quality participation in discussion depends upon being prepared and making a substantial effort to engage the material in class.

Second, you will be expected to submit *six discussion posts* throughout the course on Canvas. These discussion posts will be short, and they will be comprised of three components: (a) A typed-out passage from the week's required reading and/or a clear reference to the idea/argument you are thinking about; (b) A reflective analysis of the passage/idea/argument as it bears on its text of origin or our other required readings,

(200-word minimum/500-word maximum); & (c) A question you wish to pose to the class based on your analysis. The posts should be completed by 11 AM on Thursdays. You are welcome to continue the conversation with your peers after the deadline in the Discussion Board.

Seminar Presentations

Each seminar participant who is taking the course for a grade will be required to make two, in-class presentations on our weekly readings. Each s/u seminar participant will be required to make one, in-class presentation on our weekly readings. Presentations should focus on some particular topic or set of related topics covered in the week's required reading(s) (*many of our readings will cover numerous topics*), but should also be attentive to the broader context of the week's required readings. Each presentation can be accompanied by a handout of roughly 1-3 pages. Presentations should take approximately 20 minutes, and they should conclude with at least three questions for follow-up discussion. All class participants will be expected to respond to the presenter's questions in the follow-up discussion.

Short Paper

Each seminar participant who is taking the course for a grade will be responsible for writing a short response paper (~1000-1500 words) to a given prompt. Prompts will be distributed two weeks in advance of the due date of the paper, and this will occur prior to Spring Break. More specific instructions and details will follow. Papers will be submitted via Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday, October 21.

Final Seminar Paper

Each seminar participant who is taking the course for a grade will be responsible for writing a 5000–7000-word (double-spaced, 12pt. font) paper. The topic of the paper will be open, but it *must* bear on our seminar topics, and it must discuss and cite at least two of our required readings. I will be consulting each of you on your topics and will be happy to discuss additional readings and sources. This paper will be due via Canvas submission by 11:59 pm on Thursday, December 8.

Honor Code and Plagiarism Policy

Most instances of academic dishonesty can be avoided by thoroughly citing the resources you have used to help you understand the topic on which you're writing. **If you have read something that helped you understand the material, cite it!** Failure to cite sources is the most common (and easily avoidable) academic offence. Detailed citation instructions will be provided with your paper assignment prompts.

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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-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.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of “E” for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows:

“A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.”

Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Introduction	
8/25	Welcome! What is Philosophy of Race? Recommended: Michael James and Adam Burgos, “Race” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
Framing the Questions of Race	
9/1	Naomi Zack, “Ideas of Race in the Canonical History of Philosophy” from <i>Philosophy of Race</i> ; Lawrence Blum, “Race: A Brief History with Moral Implications” from <i>I’m Not a Racist...But</i> Recommended: Avram Alpert “Philosophy’s Systemic Racism” ; George Yancy, “The Pain and Promise of Black Women in Philosophy” ; Adriel Trott, “Women in Philosophy: Report on Black Women Philosophers Conference” ; Brad Evans And George Yancy, “The Perils of Being a Black Philosopher”
9/8	Charles Mills, <i>The Racial Contract</i> : Introduction, chs. 1-2 (up to p. 81) Recommended: “Contractarianism” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>
9/15	Charles Mills, <i>The Racial Contract</i> : chs. 2 (from p. 81)-3 Recommended: Immanuel Kant, “On the Different Races of Man”
Phenomenology	
9/22	W.E.B. Du Bois, Ch. 1 “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” from <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> ; Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness” from <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> Recommended: George Yancy, “Looking at Whiteness: Finding Myself Much like a Mugger at a Boardwalk’s End”; James Baldwin “A Letter to My Nephew” ; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” (Listen to King read his Letter here)
Ontology	

9/29	Naomi Zack, ch 2 –“Geography and Ideas of Race”, ch 3 – “Phenotypes and ideas of Race”, ch 4 – “Transmission Genetics and Ideas of Race”, and ch 5 – “Genealogy and Ideas of Race” from <i>Philosophy of Science and Race</i> Recommended: Michael Bamshad and Steve Olson, “Does Race Exist?” <i>Scientific American</i>
10/6	Kwame Anthony Appiah, “Does Truth Matter to Identity?”; Ron Mallon, “Race: Normative, Not Metaphysical or Semantic” Recommended: Ian Hacking, “Making Up People” from <i>London Review of Books</i>
10/13	Sally Haslanger, “Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them to Be?”; Linda Martín Alcoff, “Is Latina/o Identity a Racial Identity?” Recommended: Michael Omi and Howard Winant, “The Theory of Racial Formation” from <i>Racial Formation in the United States</i> ; Chike Jeffers, “Cultural Constructionism”; Bonita Lawrence, “Gender, Race, and the Regulation of Native Identity in Canada and the United States: An Overview”
10/20	Quayshawn Spencer, “Racial realism I: Are biological races real?” & “Racial realism II: Are folk races real?”; Philip Kitcher, “Race, Ethnicity, Biology, Culture” Recommended: Quayshawn Spencer, “How to be a Biological Racial Realist”
Racial Justice	
10/27	Luc Faucher, “Racism”; Emily Lee, “The Ambiguous Practices of the Inauthentic Asian American Woman” Recommended: Yen Le Espiritu, “A Critical Transitional Perspective to Asian America”
11/3	Kristie Dotson, “Tracking Epistemic Violence, Tracking Practices of Silencing”; Jose Medina, “Epistemic Injustice and Epistemologies of Ignorance” Recommended: Vanessa Wills, “And He Ate Jim Crow: Racist Ideology as False Consciousness”, Charles Mills, “White Ignorance”
11/10	To be voted on. Options include: implicit biases, racism and criminal justice, racism and health, Black feminist thought, puzzles of “passing”
11/17	Olúfemi O. Táíwò, “Reconsidering Reparations: The Movement for Black Lives and Self-Determination”; Colleen Murphy, “The Movement for Black Lives and Transitional Justice” Recommended: Ta-Nehisi Coats, “The Case for Reparations” from <i>The Atlantic</i>
11/24	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING
12/1	Summing Up

Items placed on Course Reserve

I’ve placed multiple additional books on Course Reserve that you might find interesting and useful. Some of them are eBooks, some are hard copies. To access the Course

Reserve list and eBooks, click on the 'Course Reserve' tab in Canvas. An Ares page will open.

When accessing an eBook, you might have to login again into the library website by using your GatorLink ID. It is also recommended that you use a VPN provided by UF for all the library features to work.

To download a UF GatorLink VPN, go to <https://it.ufl.edu/ict/documentation/network-infrastructure/vpn/>

Books that are not available in electronic format are placed on reserve in Library West. You can go to the Reserve Desk and ask for a copy providing our course information to the librarian.

If there are books you'd like me to add to Reserve, please let me know.

List of Books Currently on Reserve

Alcoff, Linda Martin. 2006. *Visible Identities : Race, Gender, and the Self*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Appiah, Kwame Anthony. 1992. *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Baldwin, James. 1993. *The Fire Next Time*. New York: Vintage International.

Bell, Derrick. 1992. *Faces at the Bottom of the Well: The Permanence of Racism*. Basic Books.

Blum, Lawrence A. 2002. *"I Am Not a Racist But...": The Moral Quandary of Race*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York: Routledge.

— — —. 2004. *Black Sexual Politics : African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism*. New York: Routledge.

— — —. 2019. *Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill, and Sirma Bilge. 2016. *Intersectionality*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

DiAngelo, Robin. 2018. *White Fragility: Why It's so Hard for White People to Talk about Racism*. New York: Beacon Press.

Du Bois, W.E.D. 1994. *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York, NY: Dover Publications.

Fannon, Frantz. 2008. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Translated by Charles Lam Markmann. London: Pluto Press.

Fricker, Miranda. 2007. *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Frye, Marilyn. 1983. *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory*. New York: The Crossing Press.

Garcia, Jorge J. E., ed. 2007. *Race Or Ethnicity?: On Black and Latino Identity*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

- hooks, bell. 2015. *Talking Back : Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Kendi, Ibram X. 2016. *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. New York: Nation Books.
- — —. 2019. *How to Be an Antiracist*. New York: One World.
- Lorde, Audre. 2007. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Berkeley, CA: Crossing Press.
- Medina, José. 2012. *The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mills, Charles. 1997. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Outlaw, Lucius T. 2013. "The Role of Black Philosophy." *The Black Scholar* 43 (3): 11–16.
- — —. 2016. *On Race and Philosophy*. London: Routledge.
- Pateman, Carole. 1988. *The Sexual Contract*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Shelby, Tommie. 2005. *We Who Are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.
- Shelby, Tommie, and Brandon M. Terry, eds. 2018. *To Shape a New World : Essays on the Political Philosophy of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Zack, Naomi. 2002. *Philosophy of Science and Race*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- — —, ed. 2017. *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Race*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- — —. 2018. *Philosophy of Race: An Introduction*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.