

Philosophy 353: Philosophical Discussions on Race and Ethnicity

Instructor: Eva Cadavid

Office: Crouse 423

Class Meeting Time: MWF 3:00-4:00 pm

Office hours: W 12:30-2:30pm, T/R 2:30-4:00pm and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the central questions in the philosophy of race and ethnicity. Some of the questions that we will explore are: What is the concept of race? Are African-American or Latino/a race categories? Is the concept of race different from or does it encompass ethnicity? Is race a biological category? What is the connection between the concepts of race and ethnicity and racism and discrimination? Are race and ethnicity integral to one's sense of self? How should questions of identity be decided and by whom? We will explore the philosophical assumptions behind questions of race, ethnicity, and identity with a special focus on Blackness and Latinidad. Our discussions will consider not only the ethical but also the metaphysical and epistemological implications of ethnic and racial designations in general, and specifically the designations of African-American and Latino/a. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to think critically about these issues. You will be able to write logically about race and ethnicity and you will be able to orally defend an argument for your view.

Texts:

Garcia, Jorge. *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. (RE)

Bernasconi, Robert, and Tommy L. Lott, eds. *The Idea of Race*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2000.

Additional readings distributed through Moodle.

Evaluation:

Paper (1) 30%

The paper is a 9-12 page critical analysis of an issue discussed in the readings or in class. You will design your own topic for the paper. You will not be required to submit a draft of the paper, but are strongly encouraged to do so. **Late papers will be marked down 1/3 grade per day late. Any request for an extension must be made a week before the paper is due.** Please submit an electronic copy and a hard copy of your paper.

Short papers (6) 40% all together

The short paper is a two page critical development or discussion of a reading assignment. It is NOT a summary. It should raise a question, present a criticism, or explore an interpretation of a short passage in the reading. **It MUST have a thesis statement, use standard citation practices, and show a thoughtful engagement with the text.** These short papers are meant to facilitate discussion in class, teach you basic writing and critical skills, and help you develop the formal papers. Four of the response papers have an assigned date and an electronic copy is due by 5 pm on the Friday specified on the schedule. You may choose which week to submit the other two response papers but they are due by midnight on Friday. The lowest grade of the six short papers will be dropped.

You may choose to write two of the short papers on one of the following events on campus: I Am (2/11 at 7:30 in Weisiger Theater), Fatoumata Diawara (2/13), Winter Poetry Festival (2/22 at 4 pm in the Ewen Room), The Spirit of Chinese Traditional Dance (3/1 at 7:30 in Weisiger Theater), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (3/11), Tango meets Jazz (3/15), The Forest Unseen (4/1 at 7:30 in Weisiger Theater), Motionhouse (4/4), Appalatin (4/18 at 7:30 in Combs Warehouse), Singer/songwriter festival (5/10)

Class participation 10%

Includes class attendance, having read and thought about the material before class, and sharing in class discussions. **You are expected to be present for every class meeting** and you will be required to lead class at least once this semester. You are also required to attend two of the events listed above.

Presentation 20%

Students must present or read their paper to the class. Each student will have 20 minutes for the exposition and 10 minutes for Q&A.

Required Activities:

This semester you will be expected to 1) draft and revise one essay; 2) complete a minimum of five response papers; 3) lead class discussion at least once; 4) give a formal presentation of your work to the class; and 5) complete a comprehensive exam.

Attendance and class participation: Because this course involves in-depth discussions, your presence in class is very important. **All students are required to attend class. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to make an appointment with me so that we can talk about the material you missed. You will receive a zero for class participation on the day you are absent.** Your participation in discussions is an essential part of your and of your peers' learning. I expect you to come to class on time (tardiness will be counted as an absence), be prepared, and share your opinions.

Grading Policy

Grades will be assigned according to the following grading scale: 94-100% = A, 90-93% = A-, 88-89% = B+, 84-87% = B, 80-83% = B-, 78-79% = C+, 74-77% = C, 70-73% = C-, 69-63% = D, below 62% = U.

Writing Center: This is a wonderful resource for the Centre community. Please take advantage of its services. The Writing Center is located in Young 140. Consultants will be available from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Plagiarism: No plagiarism of any kind will be accepted in my class. Plagiarism is taking someone else's words or work and submitting it as your own. If you use material from the internet, books, discussions with peers outside of class, or any other source, **you are required to reference and cite the source. Rewriting the assignment will NOT be an option!** *Papers may be submitted to Turnitin.com.* For useful information and tips, check out:

<http://www.centre.edu/web/library/help/citing.html>

Cell phones: I expect everyone in the classroom to be respectful. All cell phones are to be turned off before class begins. **No texting is allowed during our class time.** In cases of emergencies, please talk to me before class.

Notes: I strongly encourage you to discuss with me any issues that you may have with the class, texts,

and assignments. The success of this class depends on you, your peers, and me. I aim to incorporate suggestions from you on how to improve our class.

Anyone with a physical impairments or learning disability should contact the College's coordinator for disabilities, Mary Gulley (x5223), to make any necessary arrangements for appropriate accommodations to help them have an equal opportunity to learn.

Suggested Readings

"Race in a Genetic World." *Harvard Magazine*. Ed. John S. Rosenberg. Harvard University, May 2008. Web. 24 July 2014. <<http://harvardmagazine.com/2008/05/race-in-a-genetic-world-html>>.

James, Michael. "Race." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Ed. Edward N. Zalta. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 28 May 2008. Web. 24 July 2014. <<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/race/>>.

Smedley, Audrey, and Brian Smedley. *Race in North America: Origin and Evolution of a Worldview*. Fourth ed. Philadelphia: Westview Press, 2012. 35-39. (On Moodle)

Uwujaren, Jarune. "The Difference Between Cultural Exchange and Cultural Appropriation." *Everyday Feminism*. Ed. Melissa A. Fabello. Everyday Feminism, 30 Sept. 2013. Web. 24 July 2014. <<http://everydayfeminism.com/2013/09/cultural-exchange-and-cultural-appropriation/>>.

Current Events

Barnes, Sarah. "Striking Photos Challenge The Way We See Blackness." *The Huffington Post*. Ed. Adrianna Huffington. The Huffington Post, 13 Feb. 2014. Web. 24 July 2014. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/13/one-drop-rule-black-identity-photos-yaba-blay_n_4775100.html>.

Piper, Abraham. "Dallas sportscaster's shocking response to Michael Sam coming out as gay." *22 Words*. 22 Words, 12 Feb. 2014. Web. 24 July 2014. <<http://twentytwowords.com/dallas-sportscasters-shocking-response-to-michael-sam-coming-out-as-gay/>>.

Hamilton, Jack. "Don't Hate Macklemore Because He's White." *Slate*. Slate, 28 Jan. 2014. Web. 24 July 2014. <http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2014/01/macklemore_grammy_wins_don_t_hate_the_thrift_shop_rapper_because_he_s_white.html>.

Biddle, Pippa. "The Problem With Little White Girls (and Boys)." *Medium*. Medium, 18 Feb. 2014. Web. 24 July 2014. <<https://medium.com/race-class/the-problem-with-little-white-girls-and-boys-b84d4011d17e>>.

"Latino in America" Page - CNN
<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2009/latino.in.america/>

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

- 2/5 Class introduction
Identity formation
- 2/7 Gracia, *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity*, introduction (RE)

Week 2

- 2/10 Alcoff, Linda M. "The Problem of Speaking For Others." *Cultural Critique* (1991): 5-32. Web. 24 July 2014. <https://depts.washington.edu/egonline/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Alcoff-Reading.pdf>, read p. 5-13
- 2/12 Alcoff, "The Problem of Speaking for Others", read p. 14-32
- 2/14 Appiah, "Does Truth Matter to Identity?", sections 1-3 (RE)
- 2/14 Short paper 1 due

Week 3

- 2/17 Appiah, "Does Truth Matter to Identity?", sections 4-7 (RE)
- 2/19 West, Cornel. "The New Cultural Politics of Difference." *The Humanities as Social Technology* 53 (1990): 93-109, on Moodle
- 2/21 West, Cornel. "Dr. Cornel West Tells Us About Race, Val." DiversityInc. New York City. 21 Oct. 2014. Web. 24 July 2014. <<http://www.diversityinc.com/diversity-events/dr-cornel-west-tells-us-about-race-values-and-lives-worth-living/>>.

Lecture by Cornel West at WKU. Talk starts at 7:30 CST for more information see: <http://www.wku.edu/culturalenhancement/season.php>

Week 4

- 2/24 Gracia, *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity*, through section 4 (RE)
- 2/26 Gracia, *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity*, section 5 through end of article (RE)
- 2/28 Zack, "Ethnicity, Race, and the Importance of Gender" (RE)
- 2/28 Short paper 2 due.

Week 5

- 3/3 Boas, "Instability of Human Types" (IR)
- 3/5 Locke, "The Concept of Race as Applied to Social Culture" (IR)
- 3/7 Montague, "The Concept of Race in the Human Species in the Light of Genetics" (IR)

Week 6

- 3/10 Bernasconi, "Ethnic Race: Revisiting Alain Locke's Neglected Proposal" (RE)
- 3/12 Nuccetelli, "What Is an Ethnic Group" (RE)
- 3/14 Discussion day and selections from *Latino in America* on Moodle
- 3/14 Short paper 3 due.

Week 7

- 3/17 Du Bois, "The Conservation of Races" (IR)
- 3/19 Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: Du Bois and the Illusion of Race" (IR)
- 3/21 Senghor, "What Is 'Negritude'?" (IR)

Week 8

3/22 – 3/30 Spring Break!!! Enjoy!

Week 9

- 3/31 Hacking, Ian. "Why Race Still Matters." *Daedalus* 134.1 (2005): 102-16 (on Moodle)

- 4/2 Root, Michael. "How We Divide the World." *Philosophy of Science* 67 (2000): S628-39 (on Moodle)
- 4/4 Andreasen, Robin O. "Biological Reality or Social Construct?" *Philosophy of Science* 67 (2000): S653-66 (on Moodle)

Week 10

- 4/7 Sesardic, Neven. "Race: a social destruction of a biological concept." *Philosophy of Science* 25 (2010): 143-62 (on Moodle)
- 4/9 Andreasen, Robin O. "The Meaning of 'Race': Folk Conceptions and the New Biology of Race." *The Journal of Philosophy* 102.2 (2005): 94-106 (on Moodle)
- 4/11 Zack, Naomi. "The Fluid Symbol of Mixed Race." *Hypatia* 25.4 (2010): 875-90 (on Moodle)
- Valentine, Desiree. "Visualizing a Critical Mixed-Race Theory." *Stance* 2 (2009): 18-25 (on Moodle)

Week 11

- 4/14 Alcoff, "Mestizo Identity" (IR)
- 4/16 Alcoff, Linda M. "Latino/As, Asian Americans, and the Black-White Binary." *The Journal of Ethics* 7.1 (2003): 5-27 (on Moodle)
- 4/18 Alcoff, Linda M. "Is Latina/o Identity A Racial Identity?" : 23-44 (on Moodle)
- 4/18 Short paper 4 due

Week 12

- 4/21 Gracia, Jorge. *Hispanic/Latino Identity: A Philosophical Perspective*. Malden: Blackwell Publishers Inc., 2000. 27-43 (on Moodle)
- 4/23 Park, Jerry Z. "Second-Generation Asian American Pan-Ethnic Identity: Pluralized Meanings of a Racial Label." *Sociological Perspectives* 51.3 (2008): 541-61 (on Moodle)
- 4/25 Hanchard, "Black Cinderella? Race and the Public Sphere in Brazil" (IR)

Week 13

- 4/28 Omi and Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States* (IR)
- 4/30 Student presentations
- 5/2 Student presentations

Week 14

- 5/5 Student presentations
- 5/7 Student presentations
- 5/9 Student presentations

Week 15

- 5/12 Student presentations
- Final remarks

Exams week

Friday, May 16 Final draft of essay is due at 2:00 pm (please submit both a hardcopy and an electronic copy through Moodle.) We will meet at the Hub for tea and informal discussion.

Our class had a Facebook page where we all could contribute and have a discussion outside of the classroom. Here are the links to the material posted over spring semester 2014 and even summer 2014.

PHI 353: Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity

Dear White People - official trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwJhmqLU0so&feature=youtu.be>

A Mighty Girl – photo

<https://www.facebook.com/amightygirl/photos/a.360833590619627.72897.316489315054055/710414778994838/?type=1&fref=nf>

Frank Somerville KTVU – photo

<https://www.facebook.com/FrankSomervilleKTVU/photos/a.394744753922191.92927.162404453822890/652942748102389/?type=1>

Ha, Julie. "Asian Americans Question Whether Race Played Role In UC Santa Barbara Killings." *KoreAm*. N.p., 27 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.

<http://iamkoream.com/asian-americans-question-whether-race-played-role-in-uc-santa-barbara-killings/>

Bouie, Jamelle. "How Millennials Perpetuate Racism By Pretending It Doesn't Exist." *Business Insider*. N.p., 17 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.businessinsider.com/how-millennials-perpetuate-racism-by-pretending-it-doesnt-exist-2014-5>

Johnson, Theodore R. "Recall That Ice Cream Truck Song? We Have Unpleasant News For You." *NPR*. N.p., 11 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.

http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2014/05/11/310708342/recall-that-ice-cream-truck-song-we-have-unpleasant-news-for-you?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=codeswitch&utm_term=npr

Flaherty, Keely. "These Disney Princesses Reimagined As Different Ethnicities Are Gorgeous." *Buzzfeed*. N.p., 12 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/keelyflaherty/these-disney-princesses-reimagined-as-different-ethnicities>

Tufekci, Zeynep. "#Bringbackourgirls and the complexities of attention." *Medium*. N.p., 7 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <https://medium.com/message/bringbackourgirls-and-the-complexities-of-attention-3c3ab5d1dc0e>

Powers, Ann. "Is It Worth It To Work It?." *NPR*. N.p., 8 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.

http://www.npr.org/blogs/therecord/2014/05/08/310703564/is-it-worth-it-to-work-it?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=20140508

Eberhardt, Alecia L. "Stop Saying 'I Have A Boyfriend'." *Luna Luna Magazine*. N.p., 5 Sept. 2013. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://lunalunamag.com/2013/09/05/stop-boyfriend/>

"The 'Princeton White Privilege Guy' Shouldn't Be Silenced, But He Doesn't Understand What White Privilege Means." *Blogspot*. N.p., 5 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://gruntledcenter.blogspot.com/2014/05/the-princeton-white-privilege-guy.html>

Hsu, Hua, and Richard J. So. "Donald Sterling's Model Minority." *Slate*. N.p., 6 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://www.slate.com/articles/sports/sports_nut/2014/05/donald_sterling_koreans_what_the_clip_pers_owner_s_love_of_korean_americans.html

Jaschik, Scott. "The Bias for White Men." *Inside Higher Ed*. N.p., 24 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2014/04/24/study-finds-faculty-members-are-more-likely-respond-white-males-others#sthash.eqApBrTV.4KBvq70t.dpbs>

Brown, Kelly W. "How Not to Be Awful This Cinco de Mayo." *The Daily Beast*. N.p., 4 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/05/04/how-not-to-be-awful-this-cinco-de-mayo.html>

"You Don't Have To Apologize For Being White." *Medium*. N.p., 5 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <https://medium.com/race-class/you-dont-have-to-apologize-for-being-white-12a3018d5abc>

"Cinco De Mayo: Whose Holiday Is It, Anyway?" *NPR*. N.p., 2 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2014/05/02/308624630/cinco-de-mayo-whose-holiday-is-it-anyway?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=20140502

Oduyemi, Danni, and Parul Guliani. "Uncheck Your Privilege." *The Columbia Daily Spectator*. N.p., 1 May 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://columbiaspectator.com/eye/2014/05/01/uncheck-your-privilege>

Kabbany, Jennifer. "Meet The Poster Child For 'White Privilege' – Then Have Your Mind Blown." *The College Fix*. N.p., 29 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/17230/>

Doucleff, Michaelen. "Mom's Diet Right Before Pregnancy Can Alter Baby's Genes." *NPR*. N.p., 29 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/04/29/307787984/moms-diet-right-before-pregnancy-can-alter-babys-genes?utm_source=pinterest.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_content=201

"12 Years a Slave': Portraits of Solomon Northup's Descendants." *The Hollywood Reporter*. N.p., 26 Feb. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/gallery/12-years-a-slave-portraits-683439>

"What kind of Asian are you?" – video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWynJkN5HbQ&app=desktop>

Serwer, Adam. "Sonia Sotomayor: Court's right wing 'out of touch with reality'." *MSNBC*. N.p., 23 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/sonia-sotomayor-slams-supreme-court-right-wing-race-matters>

Liptak, Adam. "Court Backs Michigan on Affirmative Action." *The New York Times*. N.p., 22 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/23/us/supreme-court-michigan-affirmative-action-ban.html?smid=fb-share&_r=0

Bouie, Jamelle. "Will Today's Hispanics Be Tomorrow's Whites?" *Slate*. N.p., 15 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.
http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2014/04/america_s_future_racial_make_up_will_today_s_hispanics_be_tomorrow_s_whites.html

Membis, Liane. "National Geographic Photoset Showcases America's Melting Pot." *Clutch*. N.p., 4 Oct. 2013. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://www.clutchmagonline.com/2013/10/national-geographic-photoset-showcases-americas-melting-pot/>

"The Changing Face Of America" – photoset
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/10/changing-faces/schoeller-photography>

"How Stereotypically White Are You?" – quiz
<http://www.buzzfeed.com/mrloganrhoades/how-white-are-you-really?bffb>

"This Is What The Average American Will Look Like By 2050. Incredible." *The San Francisco Globe*. N.p., 10 Apr. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://sftimes.co/?id=459&src=m_twt_459

Stewart, Alicia W. "5 things to know about affirmative action." *CNN*. N.p., 10 Oct. 2012. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://inamerica.blogs.cnn.com/2012/10/10/5-things-to-know-about-affirmative-action/>

Ahmed, Tanzila. "I Am Made In Bangladesh Too: An Open Letter to American Apparel's Now-Famous Model." *The Aerogram*. N.p., 12 Mar. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014.
<http://theaerogram.com/im-made-bangladesh/>

Turre, Andromeda. "PSA: 'What are you?' Is Not an Icebreaker." *The Huffington Post*. N.p., 6 Mar. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andromeda-turre/what-are-you-is-not-an-icebreaker_b_4891424.html?ncid=fbklnkushpmsg00000063

Sandberg, Sheryl, and Anna Maria Chávez. "Sheryl Sandberg and Anna Maria Chávez on 'Bossy,' the Other B-word." *The Wall Street Journal*. N.p., 8 Mar. 2014. Web. 25 July 2014. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304360704579419150649284412>