

University of California, Davis
Department of Philosophy
PHILOSOPHY OF BIOLOGY
PHI 208, Fall 2013
2275 SSH, Wed 3:10-6 PM

Contact information

Instructor: Professor Roberta Millstein

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Office Hours: Wed 2-3 PM, Thurs 3-4 PM, and by appointment

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Required readings

Required (and optional) readings available on course website on SmartSite, <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/>

Course description

There are at least three different 'race debates' going on in contemporary academia. First, there is the debate among philosophers of race about the nature and reality of race as understood among current ordinary Americans and other ordinary folk engaged in similar racial discourse. Then there is the debate among biomedical scientists and STS scholars about the usefulness of U.S. racial groups in biomedical research and clinical practice. Last, but not least, there is the debate among evolutionary biologists, biological anthropologists, and philosophers of biology about whether humans can be validly divided into biological races (Quayshawn Spencer 2013, 247).

In this seminar, we will focus on the third type of race debate. Thus, in part, we will be asking what sort of biological entities races would be if they existed (morphologically different groups, subspecies, clades, lineages, ecotypes, or genetic clusters), and then, is there evidence for these in humans? These answers are not as settled as one might think. Then in the last three weeks, we will take a more meta-look at the debate as a whole, considering, e.g., whether realism vs. social construction is even the right question to be asking.

Course requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

10% - In-class participation

10% - Online participation

20% - Coordination of seminars

60% - Term paper - Sketch due by 6 PM Sat, **Nov. 30**; final version due by 6 PM on Sat, **Dec. 14**.

In-class participation - You are expected to come to all classes having done the readings and you are expected to participate in class discussions.

Online participation - Post to the SmartSite Forums **by 1 PM before every seminar** concerning the readings for the day – ask questions, raise objections, give reflections, etc.

Coordination of seminars: You will coordinate at least one (perhaps more) seminar using a visual aid such as handout or PowerPoint-type slides – contact me before class for help with photocopying or projector set up. Your job as coordinator is to stimulate and lead discussion. So, you should **1) Give enough of a summary of the readings to stimulate discussion, but don't attempt a point-by-point summary** (we can always turn to the article during discussion if necessary). Be sure to provide an overview of the overall

argument. Seek out additional references if necessary. And, **2)** raise issues for discussion (not simply, “what did you think about that?”). As coordinator, it is OK if there are parts of the articles that you didn’t understand; ask those questions for group discussion.

Term paper: Your paper may analyze any of the readings discussed in class, any of the optional readings, or offshoots of those readings (follow the citations of class readings or look for papers that cite the class readings). Contact me if you wish to do something other than the above. Prepare your paper (more or less) in the style of a *Philosophy of Science* article. Your paper should be approximately 5000 words (the length of a Philosophy of Science Association conference paper).

Important note on plagiarism/cheating: It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in work that is not your own. This includes: turning in the work of another student with your name on it, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words *or* ideas of others without proper quotation and citation. In accordance with Regulation 550 of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, **a grade of "0" will be assigned to assignments on which cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is admitted or determined to have occurred by proper adjudication.** If you have trouble with the class material or have personal issues that prevent you from doing your work, come talk to me.

Tentative Schedule - All dates and readings are subject to change. (Thanks to M. Hunter for assistance).

Date	Author-year	Paper/chapter title	Coor.
Oct 2	Races as Morphologically Different Groups		
	Blumenbach 1775	From <i>On the Natural Varieties of Mankind</i> , pp. 97-126	RLM
	Hooton 1926	"Methods of Racial Analysis"	RLM
Oct 9	Races as Geographical Subspecies		
	Mayr 1942	"The Systematic Categories and the New Species Concept"	MW
	Wilson and Brown 1953	"The Subspecies Concept and Its Taxonomic Application"	MW
Oct 16	Races as Clades		
	Andreasen 1998	"A New Perspective on the Race Debate"	MH
	Gannett 2004	"The Biological Reification of Race."	MH
Oct 23	Races as Lineages (and Clades)		
	Templeton 1998	"Human Races: A Genetic and Evolutionary Perspective"	R(J)M
	Kitcher 1999	"Race, Ethnicity, Biology, Culture"	R(J)M
Oct 30	Races as Lineages (and Clades)		
	Glasgow 2003	"On the New Biology of Race"	LR
	Andreasen 2005	"Folk Conceptions and the New Biology of Race"	LR
Nov 6	Races as Ecotypes		
	Pigliucci and Kaplan 2003	"On the Concept of Biological Race and Its Applicability to Humans"	DD
	Andreasen 2007	"Biological Conceptions of Race"	DD
Nov 13	Races as Genetic Clusters		
	Rosenberg et al. 2002	"Genetic Structure of Human Populations"	R(J)M
	Feldman & Lewontin 2008	"Race, Ancestry, and Medicine"	DD
Nov 20	Reflections on the Debate		
	Appiah 2006	"How to Decide If Races Exist"	KA
	Gannett 2010	"How by worrying less about the 'really real' philosophers of..."	KA
Nov 27	Reflections on the Debate		
	Sesardic 2010	"Race: a social destruction of a biological concept"	MH
	Pigliucci 2013	"What are we to make of the concept of race?"	KA
Dec 4	Reflections on the Debate		
	Kaplan and Winther 2013	"The Theory and Measure of Genetic Variation..."	MW
	Spencer 2013	"Biological Theory and the Metaphysics of Race"	LR