Course Description/Goals
The goal of this course is to help students gain a thorough understanding of the issues raised by races and racism. Such understanding can only be gained by bringing together several disciplines in an interdisciplinary manner. Thus, we will examine issues about race and racism that arise from biology, history, philosophy, and psychology. In particular, we will examine the following questions: Does genetics show that races are real? Why are racial categories used in medicine? Where does the concept of race come from? Is it a recent historical invention? How has it influenced the sciences? What are races? What is racism? Should we be color-blind? How does race contribute to one’s identity? Why do we think about races? Are there differences in intelligence between races? What are racial prejudices? The course will involve reading original articles and book extracts from a range of disciplines, including history, philosophy, and several sciences. These articles will be explained and discussed in class.

Courseweb
We will use courseweb for course announcements and to post lectures notes. *It is your responsibility to check the site on a regular basis.*

Readings
The readings will consist of articles and book chapters that will be available on courseweb.

Additional and Optional Readings

Assessment
Your grade will be based on your participation in class and two essays.
In determining your final grade, work will be weighed as follows:

- Participation 25%
- Essay 1 25%
- Essay 2 50%

Grading scale for the final grade:

- 97.0 – 100 A+
- 92.0 – 96.9 A
- 89.0 – 91.9 A–
- 85.0 – 88.9 B+
- 81.0 – 84.9 B
- 77.0 – 80.9 B–
- 73.0 – 76.9 C+
- 69.0 – 72.9 C
- 65.0 – 68.9 C–
- 61.0 – 64.9 D+
- 56.0 – 60.9 D
- 50.0 – 55.9 D–
- Below 49.9 F

**Participation**
Everyone is expected to take part in discussion. You should have read the assigned readings carefully. You are advised to take notes on the readings, singling out the main propositions as well as the arguments for these propositions. You should also write down the questions you may have. Participation in class discussion enables you to gain a better appreciation of the material, a better understanding of the problems and solutions, and more confidence in your abilities as a scholar and communicator.

**Essays**
You will be expected to write two essays.

The first essay will be due **02/25**. It will be a short essay (~ **1500** words). The topic of this essay will be given two weeks before the deadline. **No late essay will be accepted**.

The second essay will be longer (between **3000** and **4000** words) and will be due at the end of the semester (**04/17**). You will have to choose the topic of your essay. To assist you in commencing work, I ask you submit a brief proposal by **March, 18**. It should a page-long description of the topic to be investigated and a brief indication of the sources you intend to use. It may, but need not, be based on the seminar presentation. I advise you to talk to me about possible topics as soon as possible. Once you have determined the topic of your essay, I invite you to talk about your research and the content of your essay with me. **No late essay will be accepted**.

Turnitin will probably be used.

**Class Organization**
This course will be based on the discussion of the readings. Participation in class discussion is expected. Reading the articles is of course mandatory.
The first part of each class (~30 minutes) will typically be run as a discussion of the readings, while the second part of the class will often be a lecture. You are invited to ask any question you want during the lecture.

Assignments
Two classes will be cancelled (see syllabus). When this will happen, you will be expected to fulfill two assignments (see syllabus). This assignment will involve writing a short report (around 500 words). Assignments are to be submitted before the class that follows the cancelled class. Failure to complete an assignment will decrease your final grade by 5 points.

Attendance
Attendance is mandatory and will be checked at the beginning of each class. *Unexcused non-attendance of more than 3 classes will strongly reduce your participation grade.*

Email Communication Policy
Each student is issued a University e-mail (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The university provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to [http://accounts.pitt.edu](http://accounts.pitt.edu), log into your account, click on *Edit Forwarding Addresses*, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

Academic integrity
Students are expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh’s Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. The university’s policy on academic integrity can be found at [http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/acguidelinespdf.pdf](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/acguidelinespdf.pdf).

Special needs
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drswelcome), 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.
COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to revision as the semester proceeds)

Monday 01/07
Topic: Syllabus

PART I: BIOLOGY

Wednesday 01/09 and Monday 01/14
Topic: Genetic Diversity and Races I

Wednesday 01/16 and Wednesday 01/23
Topic: Genetic Diversity and Races II

Monday 01/28 and Wednesday 01/30
Topic: Race in Medicine

Monday 02/04 and Wednesday 02/06 NO CLASS
Assignments: TBD

Monday 02/11 and Wednesday 02/13
Topic: Other Biological Approaches

PART II: HISTORY

Monday 02/18 and Wednesday 02/20
Topic: When Was Racism Invented?

Monday 02/25 Deadline Essay 1

Monday 02/25 and Wednesday 02/27
Topic: Scientific Racism

PART III: PHILOSOPHY

Monday 03/04 and Wednesday 03/06
Topic: Race eliminativism
Readings:

Monday 03/18 Deadline Research Topic

Monday 03/18 and Wednesday 03/20
Topic: Races as Social Entities

**Monday 03/25 and Wednesday 03/27**
*Topic: What is Racism?*

**Monday 04/01 and Wednesday 04/03**
*Topic: Race blindness*

**PART IV: PSYCHOLOGY**

**Monday 04/08 and Wednesday 04/10**
*Topic: Race and intelligence*

**Monday 04/15**
*Topic: Racial Categorization*

**Wednesday 04/17 Deadline Essay 2**
*Topic: Implicit Racism*