

Meeting Times and Place:

Monday and Thursday, 3rd (12:35 – 1:55 pm), Douglass College, HCK-129

Office and Office Hours:

106 Somerset Street, CAC, Room 536, Phone: 932-9861 (Email: hmcgary@rci.rutgers.edu,
Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm and by appointment.

Course Description:

In this course, we shall examine various accounts and theories concerning the meaning and nature of race and racism as well as the moral, political, psychological, and social consequences of centuries of anti-black oppression. Questions shall include: What is the metaphysical nature of races? What are the ideological, moral, and political aspects of racism? And what should be done to remedy the damaging effects of racism and racial oppression? We shall also examine the debate over what constitutes quality education for African-Americans and the nature and value of black political leadership.

The aims of the course include: (1) sharpening analytical, argumentative skills and writing skills (2) exposing students to attempts by professional philosophers to use their methods to explore philosophical concerns raised by race and racism.

Course Requirements:

Each student must participate in class discussion, write one 8-10 page critical (argumentative) essay, and take a mid-semester and final examination.

- Class Participation
- Mid-semester Examination (**October 17**)
- Final Paper, 8-10 pages, (Due: **December 5**)
- Final Examination (**Final Exam Period**)

Evaluation of Course Requirements:

Class Participation: 10%; Term paper: 30%; Mid-semester Exam: 25%; Final Exam: 35%
Class discussion is an important part of this course. Accordingly, students are required to attend class, do the assigned readings, and participate in class discussions. Students who fail to attend class without a legitimate excuse will receive a failing grade for that session. Legitimate excuses include: the observance of religious holidays, participation in official University activities, and serious medical or family problems.

Class contributions will be judged according to the following criteria:

- * The extent to which the contribution demonstrates an understanding of the material;
- * The extent to which the contribution advances the discussion;

* The extent to which the contribution is coherent, thoughtful, and novel.

Both examinations will be in-class essay exams, and the final paper must state a clear and interesting thesis that is germane to a topic discussed in the course. This will mean that you might have to read ahead if you wish to write about a text or theme that is discussed later in the course. I will provide you with instructions for writing your paper.

Course Format:

In most sessions, I will begin by presenting a thesis advanced in the assigned reading. Then I will examine the reasons the author advances in support of his/her thesis. Finally, I will ask the class whether you think the author has provided a good (sound) argument in support of his /her thesis.

Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is against University standards. Academic dishonesty means cheating, plagiarism, or otherwise satisfying requirements through fraudulent means. The University has established disciplinary procedures for academic dishonesty.

Course Readings:

The readings for the course can be found on the Rutgers Sakai site.

Useful Background Texts (not required):

Michele Moody-Adams (1997), *Field Work in Familiar Places: Morality, Culture and Philosophy*

Aristotle (350 B. C.), *Nicomachean Ethics*

Albert Atkin, (2012), *The Philosophy of Race*

Anthony Appiah (2005), *The Ethics of Identity*

Anthony Appiah (1992), *In My Father's House*

Bernard Boxill (2003), *Race and Racism* (edited volume)

Bernard Boxill (1983), *Blacks and Social Justice*

J. Angelo Corlett (2010), *Heirs of Oppression*

J. Angelo Corlett (2003), *Race, Racism, and Reparations*

Derrick Darby (2009), *Rights, Race, and Recognition*

Robin S. Dillon, ed., *Dignity, Character, and Self-Respect*

W. E .B. DuBois (1903), *The Souls of Black Folk*

Emmanuel C. Eze (1997), *Race and the Enlightenment*

Lewis Gordon (1995), *Bad Faith and Anti-Black Racism*

Thomas E. Gossett (1963), *Race: The History of an Idea in America*

Leonard Harris (1983), *Philosophy Born of Struggle*

Immanuel Kant (1785), *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Bill Lawson, editor, (1992), *The Underclass Question*

John Locke (1690), *The Second Treatise of Government*

Howard McGary (1999), *Race and Social Justice*

Howard McGary and Bill Lawson (1992), *Between Slavery and Freedom*

John Stuart Mill (1863), *Utilitarianism*

John Stuart Mill (1859), *On Liberty*

Charles Mills (1997), *The Racial Contract*

Lucius Outlaw (1996), *On Race and Philosophy*

Plato (380 B. C.), *The Republic*
 John Rawls (1971), *A Theory of Justice*
 Tommie Shelby (2005), *We Who Are Dark*
 Anna Stubblefield (2005), *Ethics Along the Color Line*
 Laurence Thomas (1989), *Living Morally*
 Paul Taylor (2004), *Race: A Philosophical Introduction*
 Cornel West (1993), *Race Matters*
 Cornel West (1989), *The American Evasion of Philosophy*
 Booker T. Washington (1907), *Up From Slavery: An Autobiography*
 Robert Gooding-Williams (2009), *In the Shadow of DuBois*
 Naomi Zack (1993), *Race and Mixed Race*

Schedule of Readings:

Week 1

September 5 Introduction to the Course

9 W.E.B. DuBois, "The Conservation of Races"

Week 2

12 Anthony Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: DuBois and the Illusion of Race"

16 Anthony Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument"

Week 3

19 Charles Mills, "But What Are You Really?"

23 Charles Mills, "But What Are You Really?"

Week 4

26 Ron Mallon, "Passing, Traveling and Reality: Social Construction and the Metaphysics of Race"

30 Ron Mallon, "Passing, Traveling and Reality"

Week 5

October 3 Phillip Kitcher, "Does Race Have a Future?"

7 Phillip Kitcher, "Does Race Have a Future?"

Week 6

10 Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Racisms"

14 Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Racisms"

Week 7

17 **Mid-Semester Exam (In-Class)**

21 J.L.A. Garcia, "The Heart of Racism"

Week 8

24 J.L.A. Garcia, 'The Heart of Racism'
 28 Tommie Shelby "Is Racism in the Heart?"

Week 9

Nov. 31 Lawrence Blum, "Three Kinds of Race-Related Solidarity"
 4 Iris Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"

Week 10

7 Howard McGary, "Morality and Collective Liability"
 11 Howard McGary, "Morality and Collective Liability"

Week 11

14 Michele Moody-Adams, "Culture, Responsibility, and Affected Ignorance"
 18 Michele Moody-Adams, "Culture, Responsibility, and Affected Ignorance"

Week 12

21 Booker T. Washington, "The Atlanta Exposition Address"
 25 W. E. B. DuBois, "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others"

Week 13

28 Thanksgiving Break

Week 14

December 2 Bernard Boxill, "Self-Respect and Protest"
 5 Bernard Boxill, "Self-Respect and Protest"

Week 15

December 9 **Final Exam Review**