

Professor Howard McGary

Meeting Time: Monday: 9:50 am – 11:10 am

Place: CAC AB-2150

Office: 106 Somerset Street, Room 536

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 2- 3 pm and by appointment

Email: hmcgary@rci.rutgers.edu

Course Description:

In the 1970s, a small group of students of color were admitted to Philosophy Ph.D. programs. Most, but certainly not all, of these students focused on normative concerns, especially on what bearing, if any, racial identities should have on questions of social justice. In the 1980s a second group of students entered the discipline and turned their attention to metaphysical and social concerns. Inspired by the writings of 19th and early 20th Century authors Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, and Booker T. Washington, they focused their attention on the meaning and significance of race. Recently, a third group has concentrated on the normative implications (justness) of viewing race as a social construction and on the ability of a Rawlsian conception of justice to address racial injustice.

In this course, we shall examine some recent topics concerning race that have been discussed by social and political philosophers. These discussions will include the meaning and political significance of race, political liberalism and race, racial integration, race and responsibility, ghetto poverty, and race and social justice.

Suggested Readings:

Michele Moody Adams (1997), Fieldwork in Familiar Places

Elizabeth Anderson, (2010), The Imperative of Integration

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

_____, (2005), The Ethics of Identity

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

Bernard Boxill, Blacks and Social Justice

_____, ed., Race and Racism

David Theo Goldberg (1990), ed, The Anatomy of Racism

Sally Haslanger (2012), Resisting Reality

David Hume (1751), An Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals

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

John Locke (1690), The Second Treatise of Government

Larry May and Stacey Hoffman, eds. (1991), Collective Responsibility

Karl Marx, 1844 Manuscripts

Howard McGary and Bill Lawson (1992), Between Slavery and Freedom: Philosophy and American Slavery

Howard McGary (1999), Race and Social Justice

John Stuart Mill (1863), Utilitarianism

John Stuart Mill (1859), On Liberty

Charles Mills, (1998) Blackness Visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race
_____, The Racial Contract

Robert Nozick (1974), Anarchy, State, and Utopia
 Plato (380 B. C.), The Republic
 John Rawls (1971), A Theory of Justice
 Thomas Scanlon (1998), What We Owe to Each Other
 Tommie Shelby (2005), We Who Are Dark
 Jason Stanley (2015), How Propaganda Works

Course Requirements:

Students must do the readings, attend class, and participate.
 Write a substantive paper (6,000 – 7,000 words) (Due: April 30th)
 Take an in-class mid-semester exam (March 1st)

Evaluation of Course Requirements:

Class Participation: 10 %; Paper Assignment: 55%, Mid-semester 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.

Your papers must state a clear and thesis that is germane to the topic you are discussing. 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.

Readings:

The readings listed below may be subject to change. They will be posted on the course Sakai site.

Class Sessions /Readings: