

# Philosophy 170

## Philosophy and Race

### Fall 2016

**Peterson 103**  
**TTH 9:30-10:50**

**Prof. Michael Hardimon, instructor**  
 858 822-0473  
 H&SS 8084  
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**Office Hour**  
 TH 11:30-12:30  
 and by apt.

**J.P Messina, teaching assistant**  
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**Office Hour**  
 T 2:00-3:00  
 and by apt

The aim of this course is to bring philosophy to bear on three central questions concerning *race*: What is race? What is racism? and What is racial identity? We will be pursuing these questions *philosophically*. What *that* comes to – how philosophy can contribute to answering these questions – is an additional issue we will address. The course presupposes no previous work in race, the philosophy of race or philosophy in general and can serve as an introduction to these topics. It will ask you to think rigorously about fundamental questions about race and to question your fundamental assumptions about the topic. It will ask you to reflect carefully about an emotionally charged subject.

### **Class Schedule** (Subject to Adjustment)

#### **1. What is Race?**

Thursday	Sept 22	<i>First Meeting</i>
Tuesday	Sept 27	<i>What is <b>racialist</b> race?</i>
Thursday	Sept 29	Appiah 30-42, 54-56, 67-74. Blum 109-130 Omi and Winant 61-62 ----- Alexander 1-40
Tuesday	Oct 4	<i>What is <b>socialrace</b>?</i>
Thursday	Oct 6	Omi and Winant 53-76. Blum 147-163 Hardimon "The Concept of Socialrace" ----- Alexander 40-74
Tuesday	Oct 11	<i>What is <b>minimalist race</b>?</i>
Thursday	Oct 13	Anderson 157 -158. Blum 167-174 Omi and Winant 14-35 Hardimon "Minimalist Biological Race" ----- Alexander 74-112

Tuesday	Oct 18	<i>What is <u>populationist race</u>?</i> Appiah 67-74 Hardimon "The Idea of a Scientific Concept of Race" ----- Alexander 112-148
Thursday	Oct 20	

**Short Response due in class Thursday September 22**

**First Two-page Paper due in class Thursday, October 20**

## 2. What is Racism?

Tuesday	Oct 25	<i>What is <u>individual racism</u>?</i> Blum 1-77 Garcia Anderson 47-48 DiAngelo ----- Alexander 148-185
Thursday	Oct 27	
Tuesday	Nov 1	<i>What is <u>implicit bias</u>?</i> Brownstein Kelly and Roedder ----- Alexander 185-220
Thursday	Nov 3	
Tuesday	Nov 8	<i>What is <u>institutional racism</u>?</i> Anderson (1) Haslanger
Thursday	Nov 10	

**The Harvard Implicit Bias test should be taken no later than Tuesday October 25**

**Second Two-page paper due in class Thursday November 10**

## 3. What is Racial Identity?

Tuesday	Nov 15	<i>What is it to be black?</i> Appiah 74-105 Anderson (2) Shelby
Thursday	Nov 17	
Tuesday	Nov 22	<i>What is it to be Asian?</i> Wu 1-129
Thursday	Nov 24	<b>No class: Thanksgiving</b>
Tuesday	Nov 29	<i>What is it to be white?</i> McIntosh Crosley-Corcoran Alcoff
Thursday	Dec 1	

**Five-page paper due in class Thursday December 1**

**Review Session: Thursday December 4 7:00-9:00 pm**

**Final Exam: Thursday December 8 8:00 - 11:00 am**

## Required Texts

Louise Martin Alcoff	"What Should White People Do?"*	
Michelle Alexander	<i>The New Jim Crow</i>	The New Press
Elizabeth Anderson (1)	"Racial Segregation and Material Inequality in the United States"	
Elizabeth Anderson (2)	"Segregation, Racial Stigma, and Discrimination"	
K. Anthony Appiah & Amy Gutmann	<i>Color Consciousness</i>	Princeton U Press
Lawrence Blum	<i>I'm Not a Racist, but...</i>	Cornell U. Press
Michael Brownstein	"Implicit Bias"	
Gina Crosley-Corcoran	"Explaining White Privilege to a Poor White Person..."	
Robin DiAngelo	"White Fragility"	
J.L.A. Garcia	"The Heart of Racism"*	
Sally Haslanger	"Oppressions"*	
Daniel Kelly and Erica Roedder	"Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias"*	
Richard Lewontin	"Apportionment of Human Diversity"*	
Peggy McIntosh	"White Privilege"*	
Michael Omi & Howard Winant	<i>Racial Formation and the United States</i>	Routledge
Noah Rosenberg et. al.	"Genetic Structure of Human Populations"*	
Tommie Shelby	"Foundations of Black Solidarity"*	
Frank H. Wu	<i>Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White</i>	Basic Books

*Books* (italicized) should be purchased e.g. from Amazon. **Articles and Chapters** (marked with an asterisk \*) available on-line from electronic reserves

## Harvard Implicit Attitude Association Test (Race)

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

### Requirements

- Short response to prompt, first day of class
- Regular attendance
- Bring texts to class
- Class participation
- Two 2-page papers
- One 5-page paper
- Harvard implicit association test (IAT) on race
- Final examination

**All work must be completed to receive a passing final grade.**

### Papers

Topics will be assigned in class. Due dates subject to revision. Students are required to hand in a hard copy in class on due date *and* to submit an identical copy electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. Class ID: **13387671** Password: **classpass123** (no caps, one word)

Extensions will be granted when circumstances warrant *provided arrangements are made with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance*. There are no automatic extensions. It is better to ask for an extension sooner rather than later. Except in unusual circumstances (e.g. medical emergencies, a disaster that strikes the student or the immediate family), unexcused late papers are subject to the penalty of being dropped at least one letter grade e.g. B>C.

Interpretations or ideas borrowed, directly or indirectly, from secondary sources or other people (apart from the instructor but including fellow students) must be footnoted. Any use of web-

based material must be footnoted. Anything else is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Students are encouraged to discuss paper topics but must write the papers **alone**.

Students are responsible for making and keeping an extra copy of their paper in case the original is lost.

### Grade Weights

2-Page Papers	30% (10 + 10 +10)
5- Paper	30%
<u>Final</u>	<u>40 %</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Participation** 10 possible bonus points. Class participation can only bring grades *up*, never down. Bonus points kick in at the half-grade margin (e.g. between a C+ and B-)

### Grade Range

Papers in Philosophy 170 are not graded on a curve. Each student can in principle receive an A. The same holds true for less desirable grades.

The minimal standard of performance for a grade of P shall be the same as that for a grade of C- (including a C- on the final).

### Other Information

Students are expected to have read the material in advance, to bring the text, and to be prepared to discuss it in class.

The Academic Honor Code must be observed in this course. Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive an automatic F for the course and be referred to the ADHB for disciplinary action.

If accommodations are needed for a disability or religious reasons, please notify the instructor during the first class period or as soon as possible.