

PHIL 482-01/AAM 481-01/HR 431-05
Fall 2009

Philosophy and Race
Dr. C. McCluskey

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Office hours: Mondays 1-2 pm; Thursdays 10-11 am; and by appointment

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Required Texts:

Available at SLU bookstore: Bernasconi and Lott, eds., *The Idea of Race*; Eze, ed., *Race and the Enlightenment*; Lang, ed., *Race and Racism in Theory and Practice*; Singley, ed., *When Race Becomes Real*

Available on e-reserve: various miscellaneous articles, password race09

Procedure for e/res: Go to Pius Library web page. Click on Course Reserves. Click on Electronic Reserves and Reserves Pages. Click on Course Reserves Pages By Instructor. Select McCluskey and click search. Select PHIL 482-01, AAM 481-01, or HR 431-05. Enter password (race09) and click accept. Click on the article you want. If you are unable to access or to print materials from e-reserve, you will need to ask for help at the library. Computer problems are not acceptable excuses for failure to obtain the required articles.

Please note: all students are expected to bring copies (either hard copies or laptop) of the appropriate texts to class on the appropriate days, whether they are the required books or the articles on e/res.

Assignments:

3 take-home exams, each worth 20%

1 final paper, worth 25%

participation grade, worth 15%

bi-weekly discussion papers, worth 7.5%

in-class discussion, worth 7.5%

15 hours of service with documentation

Grading scale:	3.9	4.1	A	2.2	2.5	C+
	3.6	3.8	A	1.9	2.1	C
	3.2	3.5	B+	1.6	1.8	C
	2.9	3.1	B	0.9	1.5	D
	2.6	2.8	B	0.0	0.8	F

Objectives: To examine the idea of race and its implications, both from foundational historical perspectives and from contemporary writings. We will trace the development of racial theories in European writings from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries and their influence on racial policies for a number of different groups, including contemporary US society, the Holocaust of World War II, and Asia. Some of the issues we will consider include the nature of race (e.g., is it based in biology or is it a social construct? Is the notion of race a myth?) and the function of race within our culture (e.g., how do judgments about race affect individual prospects for flourishing?). We will consider race from a number of different perspectives, including African, African-American, Jewish, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, and white.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics

This course has been approved to satisfy the core requirement for cultural diversity and for cultural diversity in the US

Course policies:

Discussion policies: I encourage active learning in this class. Class discussion is an important contributor to active learning. In order to prepare for class discussion, students are required to write 1-page discussion papers on the articles assigned for each class to be turned in at the end of the class hour.

for is evidence that _____ and thought about the issues involved. Specific issues and questions to be addressed in the discussion paper for the following class will be given at the end of each class; failure to address these issues and questions will result in a grade of unsatisfactory. Final grades on discussion papers are calculated according to the following scale: 4.0: at least 24 papers with grade of satisfactory; 3.7: 23 papers; 3.4: 22 papers; 3.0: 21 papers; 2.7: 20 papers; 2.4: 19 papers; 2.0: 18 papers; 1.7: 15 papers; 1.0: 13 papers; 0: 12 or fewer papers. Discussion papers must be typed, single-spaced, with standard fonts (11 or 12 point only) and margins. They must be no more than 1 page in length. They are to be written prior to class, brought to class for consultation during discussion, and turned in at the end of the class period. No discussion papers will be accepted from anyone who does not attend class on that day. No discussion papers will be accepted later than 15 minutes after the end of class. No discussion papers will be accepted electronically. Students who miss class for official university activities, or who have an attendance qualification from Student Disability Services, or who have a serious and *chronic* reason for missing class qualify for excused absences; in **all** cases, students

- 12/1** Williams (RR); Tatum (RBR)
12/3 Lauter (RR); MacDonald (RBR); 3rd exam due
12/10 Final paper due by 3 pm

SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT

Rationale and general information:

One of the central reasons to study the history and concept of race is to come to a realization of how this concept functions in our culture. An understanding of how race unfairly privileges some members of society and damages the prospects and opportunities of others requires that one put this knowledge into action. Consequently, the study of race becomes an issue of justice. Thus, the service learning component of this course has 2 objectives. First, it is intended to be an opportunity for students to begin or continue their own contributions to the ongoing larger enterprise of fighting injustice due to race. That is the service aspect. Secondly, it is intended to be an opportunity for students to reflect not only on their own experiences with respect to race, but also to reflect on how race affects the experience of others who come from a different racial/ethnic background from themselves. This is the knowledge or academic aspect) of the requirement.

To fulfill the service aspect, all students are required to engage in a minimum of 15 hours of service during the course of the semester. The service must be at an agency that serves the needs of individuals in a racial or ethnic group different from that of the student. Documentation of service hours is required. Projects are available through -learning program, although it is not required that students utilize this service. The academic aspect of the service-learning component will be accomplished by two methods. First, opportunity will be

Students who currently serve at an agency whose profile meets the requirements for this course or who are completing at least 15 hours of service for another course this semester are not required to take on an additional service project. However, they must complete a minimum of 15 hours at this agency during the course of the current semester; hours worked prior are not acceptable. It is also recommended that students with their own service projects check with me to insure that the type of service they are doing is in keeping with the goals of the service-learning component for this course. The same documentation is required.

Logistics for the academic aspect of this component:

All students will write a final paper for this course in which they incorporate some of the knowledge and insights they have gained as a result of their service projects with some of the knowledge and insights they have gained as a result of the readings and discussions they have completed in the classroom throughout the course of the semester. No additional library research is required for this paper; students are encouraged to make use of the articles assigned for class discussion. Many different approaches can be taken in this paper, but the paper must illustrate some connection between what was done in the service project and some of the theoretical ideas raised in the readings and in class discussion. The assignment is intended to allow and encourage you to integrate the practical aspects and the theoretical aspects of race on the basis of your own experiences. It is intended to allow you to show me whatces. Itnthe r