PHILOSOPHY OF RACE ONLINE PHIL 3623.23918

SPRING 2019

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Required texts for the course:
- Thinking About Race (Second Edition) by Naomi Zack
- PDFs will be posted in the online classroom

Recommended texts for the course:
- Writing Philosophy Papers (Wadsworth, 2003)
- Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Course Description:
What is "race"? Is it a valid biological category? Is it a valid census category? What is the relationship between the continued use of racial categories and the persistence of racism? Is race central to one's subjectivity, or sense of self? What race is a mixed race person? How should questions of racial identity be decided, and by whom?
This course will explore the philosophical assumptions behind concepts of race, and the political effects of racial identities. However, this will not mainly be a course on the ethics of race, but on the metaphysical legitimacy and social reality of racial designations, and their political effects.
Because of the variability of these issues across different cultures, we will mainly draw from readings about the United States focusing on white, African-American, Latina/o, American Indian and Asian American racial categories.

Course Requirements: Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
Course Procedure:
This course will be delivered entirely online through the course management system D2L. Classes will combine readings and online discussions. I will make initial introductory comments to the readings on discussion boards, and then I will expect each student to make a minimum of two thoughtful remarks per reading.

Course Requirements:
There will be two take-home essay exams. Students will have one week to complete each exam. Each take-home exam is to be 7-10 pages in length and critical. By critical I mean that the student will respond to the questions posed on the exam by analyzing the problems posed in the questions and presenting and defending a clearly defined thesis in response. Each exam is worth 100 points each for a total of 200 points.

Each student is expected to make at least one thoughtful comment on the class discussion board when discussions are posted. The regularity and quality of these comments will be noted and graded for a total of 100 points.

Each student is to write four one to two page reflection papers over specific readings identified in the reading list. Each reflection is worth 25 points for a total of 100 points.

Policy on Late Work:
Timely submission of the take home exams and the exposition papers and completion of the in class presentation is required for successful completion of the course. Late exams will not be accepted unless there is a legitimate reason provided by the student and I accept those reasons. If you think you will not turn in the exam on time, you must discuss the situation with me or the TA before the due date and I must approve the late exam. If you miss the due date or I do not accept your reason as legitimate, you will receive a grade of ‘0’ for the exam. Additionally, a late exam will be subject to a 5 point per day deduction from the grade on the exam. Late exposition papers will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.