Philosophy of Race, Social Movements, and Racial Justice

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Spring 2024
Tu: 3.30 – 6.15
HL 538
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Description

How does Critical Philosophy of Race differ from *uncritical* philosophy of race? In what ways does CPR diverge methodologically from other philosophical traditions? How ought we account for race and racism in our theorizations about justice? What is the basis for political hope? How do we deal with the problem of whiteness? These are some of the questions we will pursue in this course.

Required Text
Michele Moody-Adams, *Making Space for Justice*

Reading Schedule

Week 1 (1/16) *Methodology*

Mills, "Critical Philosophy of Race"
Charles Mills, "'Ideal Theory' as Ideology

Further Reading
Bhikhu Parekh, "Critique of Traditional Political Philosophy"
Christian List and Laura Valentini, "The Methodology of Political Theory"
Laura Valentini, "Ideal v Non-Ideal Theory: A Conceptual Map"
Onora O'Neill, "Abstraction, Idealization and Ideology in Ethics"
Paul Taylor, "A Future for Africana (Post-)Analytic Philosophy"

Week 2 (1/23) *Politics and Identity*

Linda Martín Alcoff, *Visible Identities,* chapters 1 - 2

Week 3 (1/30) *Politics and Identity*

Linda Martín Alcoff, *Visible Identities,* chapters 3 – 4

Further Reading
Geoff Shullenberger, "The Poverty of Anti-Wokeness"

Combahee River Collective Statement (1977)

Week 4 (2/6) *Challenging Racial Injustice*

Michele Moody-Adams, chapters 1 and 2

Week 5 (2/13) *Challenging Racial Injustice*

Moody-Adams, chapter 3
Medina, chapters 1 and 2

Week 6 (2/20) *Protest and Communication*

Medina, chapter 3
Anderson, "Epistemic Injustice and the Philosophy of Race"
Langton, R., & Hornsby, J. "Free Speech and Illocution"

Week 7 (2/27) *Protest and Communication*

Moody-Adams, chaps 4 - 5

Week 8 (3/5) *Collective Imagination*

Moody-Adams, Ch. 6
James Baldwin, "Everybody's Protest Novel"

Week 9 (3/12)
Spring Break: NO CLASS

Week 10 (3/19) *Collective Imagination*

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, excerpt
Samantha Vice, "How Do I Live in this Strange Place?"

Further Reading
Alana Lentin, "Europe and the Silence about Race"
Marzia Milazzo, "On White Ignorance, White Shame, and Other Pitfalls in Critical Philosophy of Race"

Week 11 (3/26) *Hope and Change*

Moody-Adams, Chaps. 7 - 8

Week 12 (4/2) *Hope and Change*

Derrick Bell, "Racial Realism"
Calvin Warren, "Black Nihilism and the Politics of Hope"

Further Reading
Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
Bernard Register, *The Affirmation of Life: Nietzsche on Overcoming Nihilism*
Cornel West, *Race Matters*

Week 13 (4/9) *Hope and Change*

W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Souls of White Folk"

Further Reading
W.E.B. Du Bois, *Darkwater*

Week 14 (4/16) *Workshop*

Week 15 (4/23) *Workshop*