

FYSM 1210 The Politics of Colour: Theory and Practice

Course Outline

Term: Fall 2020

Time: Tues. & Thurs. 1:05-2:25 pm

Location: Online

Instructor: Philippe-Antoine Hoyerck¹

Office: N/A

Office hours: By appointment only

Phone: N/A

Email: philippeantoin.hoyerck@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course is an examination of the concepts of race and ethnicity and of their relation to politics, with a particular focus on the North American context. Topics covered will include the history and scientificity of the concept of race, the difference between race and ethnicity, the individual and systemic interpretations of racism, the debate around colour-conscious policy, and the possibility of cross-cultural understanding.

Learning Outcomes

The purpose of this course is twofold. The first is to introduce students to key theoretical debates pertaining to the concept of race in ethics, political philosophy, and the philosophy of race. The second is to encourage students to apply these theoretical frameworks to concrete political and social issues including, among other things, the policing of Black communities in the United States, Crown-Indigenous relations in Canada, and the ethnicization of Islam in the West. Accordingly, this course will be highly interdisciplinary. Although each week will center around a theoretical text, we will also concretize the theory with materials taken from the humanities (film, history, literature, music), the natural sciences (biology), and the social sciences (anthropology, law, psychology, and sociology).

Content Warning

This course will address very difficult questions that some students may find distressing, offensive, or taxing. Apart from being exposed to unquestionably bigoted historical views, they will also be required to consider controversial contemporary philosophical arguments that may challenge their most deeply held beliefs. Emotional reactions to such arguments are understandable. Nonetheless, in the context of a philosophical discussion, it will be necessary to keep an open mind, to focus on the arguments presented, and to evaluate them on their own merits independently of our personal reactions whenever possible.

Course Materials

There is no need to purchase any books for this course. All materials will be posted on CULearn for students' convenience. Students are expected to keep up with posted materials, including articles, videos, excerpts from works of fiction, and legal documents.

¹ This course was developed in collaboration with Jelissa Dawkins through the Students as Partners Program (SaPP) at Carleton University. Special thanks also to Krista Megeney and Jérôme Gosselin-Tapp for their invaluable input.

Course Requirements

This course is organized as a seminar. Classes will primarily take the form of synchronous lectures on BigBlueButton. Students are expected to review readings ahead of time and to come prepared to discuss them. Although participation is not graded, students will get the most out of this course if they contribute regularly. These sessions are mandatory. Students will be tested on lecture material on a weekly basis. However, all sessions will also be recorded for students who cannot attend.

Evaluations

- Weekly online quizzes 20%
- Short written assignment #1 (Oct. 8th) 20%
- Short written assignment #2 (Nov. 5th) 20%
- Draft of final creative project (Nov. 26th) 10%
- Final creative project (Dec. 23rd) 30%

Course Policies

- The instructor will not hold regular office hours. Office hours will be held by appointment on BigBlueButton.
- The instructor reserves the right to modify the order and content of lectures. Students will always be notified ahead of time in the event of a change.
- The instructor will try to respond to emails promptly. However, students should allow up to two business days for replies.

Course Calendar — Fall 2020

Week 1 Sept. 10th	Course Introduction No readings
UNIT I WHAT IS RACE?	
Week 2 Sept. 15th & 17th	Is Race a Biological or a Social Category? Reading: Naomi Zack, <i>Philosophy of Race: An Introduction</i> , p. 47-66, 123-125
Week 3 Sept. 22nd & 24th	What's the Difference between Race and Ethnicity? Reading: Jorge Garcia, "The Nature of Ethnicity with Special Reference to Hispanic/Latino Identity"
Week 4 Sept. 29th & Oct. 1st	How do Race and Ethnicity Factor into Identity? Reading: Kwame Anthony Appiah, <i>The Ethics of Identity</i> , p. 62-115

**UNIT II
WHAT IS RACISM?**

Week 5 Oct. 6th & 8th	Is Racism a Personal Attitude or a Systemic Issue? Reading: Michele Moody-Adams, "Racism" <i>Short written assignment #1 due Oct. 8th</i>
Week 6 Oct. 13th & 15th	What is Meant by Systemic Racism? Reading: Charles W. Mills, <i>The Racial Contract</i> , p. 9-40
Week 7 Oct. 20th & 22nd	What are the Effects of Systemic Racism? Reading: Cornel West, <i>Race Matters</i> , p. 9-32 <i>Information Literacy Session October 22nd</i>

**UNIT III
PRACTICAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS**

Week 8 Nov. 3rd & 5th	Should Politics be Colour-Conscious or Colour-Blind? Reading: Luke Harris & Uma Narayan, "Affirmative Action as Equalizing Opportunity" <i>Short written assignment #2 due Nov. 5th</i>
Week 9 Nov. 10th & 12th	What Does Justice Look Like in a Diverse Society? Reading: Will Kymlicka, <i>Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights</i> , p. 10-48
Week 10 Nov. 17th & 19th	Is Integration a Worthwhile Political Goal? Reading: Glen Sean Coulthard, "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada"

**UNIT IV
DIFFERENCE AND REPRESENTATION**

Week 11 Nov. 24th & 26th	What Do We Mean by Intersectionality? Reading: bell hooks, <i>Ain't I a Woman? Black Women and Feminism</i> , p. 159-196. <i>Draft of Final creative assignment due Nov. 26th</i>
Week 12 Dec. 1st & 3rd	Why is Representation Important? Reading: Angela Davis, <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> , p. 172-201
Week 13 Dec. 8th & 10th	Can We Think and Talk About Other Racial and Ethnic Groups? Reading: Edward Said, <i>Covering Islam</i> , p. 135-173 <i>Final Creative Assignment due December 23rd</i>

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).

- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Important Dates:

Sept. 9	Classes start.
Sept. 23	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 12	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 27	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 11	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
Dec. 12-23	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Apr. 2	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 11-23	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
 520-2110

Registrar's Office:

www.carleton.ca/registrar

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

www.carleton.ca/academicadvising

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735