

Philosophy 179: Race and Social Justice
Fall 2012
Tues., Thurs. 10:00-11:00
Emerson Hall 101

Prof. Tommie Shelby
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Critically examines recent philosophical work on questions of racial justice: What is the idea of race, and is it intellectually and morally bankrupt? What is racism, and what makes it wrong? What makes racial discrimination unjust? Are racial identity politics and group representation incompatible with democratic principles? When, if ever, is hate crime legislation justified? Are reparations owed for past racial injustices? Is racial profiling ever permissible? Under what conditions should we regard racial disparities (e.g., in wealth or employment) as unjust? Should government foster racial integration in schools and neighborhoods? Is affirmative action unfair? Is a truly just society a "color-blind" or "post-racial" society?

This course, when taken for a letter grade, meets the General Education requirement for Ethical Reasoning.

Requirements:

- Class participation (15%). This entails making regular and well-informed contributions to class discussion and section, which of course requires that you do the reading and regularly attend both class and section.
- An 1800-2000-word essay (5-6 pages), due by Monday, October 8th at 5:00 pm (20%).
- A 2000-2200-word essay (6-7 pages), due by Monday, November 5th at 5:00 pm (30%).
- A 2200-2400-word essay (7-8 pages), due by Monday, December 10 at 5:00 pm (35%).

Departmental Writing Tutor: Byron Davies (bmdavies@fas.harvard.edu) is the Philosophy Department writing tutor. His job is to help undergraduates taking philosophy courses with their writing. During the term he's available to meet with students about their assignments, and he'll be giving a lecture on the basics of philosophical writing on Friday Sept. 14 at 2 PM in Emerson 108. More information about his services, as well as other useful resources, can be found here: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~phildept/departmentwritingfellow.html>

Collaboration Policy: Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work and to philosophy in particular. For writing assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics, to discuss readings, and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. *However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own ideas and approach to the topic.* You must also adhere to standard citation practices and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Electronic Device Policy: The use of laptops and tablets (e.g., iPads) in lecture is permitted, provided your use is course related (e.g., taking notes, searching for a passage, looking up a date, etc.). However, please refrain from using email and social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Google+, text messaging, etc.), reading non-course related materials (e.g., blogs, magazines, newspapers, etc.), or watching videos during class. If you use a laptop/tablet, please do not sit in front of or next to someone who is not using a laptop. The use of mobile phones is not allowed. Non-compliance with this policy will negatively affect your participation grade and may lead to other penalties.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#) (AEO) and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term (*Friday, September 14*). Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Required Texts:

- K. Anthony Appiah and Amy Gutmann, *Color Conscious: The Political Morality of Race* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996).
- Glenn C. Loury, *Race, Incarceration, and American Values* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008).
- Various essays and book chapters available on the course website.

Recommended Text:

George Fredrickson, *Racism: A Short History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).

Reading Assignments and Topics:

I. "RACE," RACIAL IDENTITY, AND RACISM

Tues., Sept. 4: Introduction (no readings)

Thurs., Sept. 6: K. Anthony Appiah, "Analysis: Against Races," *Color Conscious*, pp. 30-74.

Tues., Sept. 11: K. Anthony Appiah, "Synthesis: For Racial Identities," *Color Conscious*, pp. 74-105.

Thurs., Sept. 13: K. Anthony Appiah, "Racisms," in *Anatomy of Racism*, ed. David Theo Goldberg (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1990), pp. 3-17.

Tues., Sept. 18: Gertrude Ezorsky, *Racism and Justice: The Case for Affirmative Action* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991), chap. 1, pp. 9-27.

Thurs., Sept. 20: J.L.A. Garcia, "The Heart of Racism," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 27 (1996): 5-46.

Tues., Sept. 25: Linda Martin Alcoff, "Latinos Beyond the Binary," *Southern Journal of Philosophy* 47 (2009): 112-128.

II. DISCRIMINATION, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, AND COLORBLINDNESS

Thurs., Sept. 27: Larry Alexander, "What Makes Wrongful Discrimination Wrong? Biases, Preferences, Stereotypes, and Proxies," *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 141 (1992): 149-190.

Tues., Oct. 2: Larry Alexander, "What Makes Wrongful Discrimination Wrong? Biases, Preferences, Stereotypes, and Proxies," *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 141 (1992): 190-219.

Thurs., Oct. 4: Alan Goldman, "Limits to the Justification of Reverse Discrimination," *Social Theory and Practice* 3 (1975): 289-305.

Tues., Oct. 9: Amy Gutmann, "Responding to Racial Injustice," *Color Conscious*, pp. 106-138.

III. POLITICAL EQUALITY AND DEMOCRACY

Thurs., Oct. 11: Lani Guinier, "[E]racing Democracy: The Voting Rights Cases," *Harvard Law Review* 108 (1994): 109-137.

Tues., Oct. 16: Andrew Altman, "Race and Democracy: The Controversy Over Racial Vote Dilution," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 27 (1998): 175-201.

IV. HATE SPEECH

Thurs., Oct. 18: Jeremy Waldron, "Dignity and Defamation: The Visibility of Hate," *Harvard Law Review* 123 (2010): 1596-1635.

Tues., Oct. 23: Jeremy Waldron, "Dignity and Defamation: The Visibility of Hate," *Harvard Law Review* 123 (2010): 1635-1657.

V. CRIME, POLICING, AND PUNISHMENT

Thurs., Oct. 25: Michael Levin, "Responses to Race Differences in Crime," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 23 (1992): 5-29.

Tues., Oct. 30: Mathias Risse and Richard Zeckhauser, "Racial Profiling," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 32 (2004):

Thurs. Nov. 1: Glenn Loury, *Race, Incarceration, and American Values*, pp. 3-40.

Tues., Nov. 6: Glenn Loury, *Race, Incarceration, and American Values*, pp. 41-84.

Thurs., Nov. 8: Tommie Shelby, "Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 35 (Spring 2007): 126-160.

VI. REPARATIONS

Tues., Nov. 13: Jeremy Waldron, "Superseding Historic Injustice," *Ethics* 103 (1992): 4-28.

Thurs., Nov. 15: Bernard R. Boxill, "A Lockean Argument for Black Reparations," *Journal of Ethics* 7 (2003): 63-91.

Tues., Nov. 20: David Lyons, "Corrective Justice, Equal Opportunity, and the Legacy of Slavery and Jim Crow," *Boston University Law Review* 84 (2004): 1375-1404.

VII. PLURALISM, INTEGRATION, AND SEPARATISM

Thurs., Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Recess

Tues., Nov. 27: Iris Marion Young, *Inclusion and Democracy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), chap. 6, pp. 196-235.

Thurs., Nov. 29: Elizabeth Anderson, "The Future of Integration," in *Contemporary Debates in Social Philosophy*, ed. Laurence Thomas (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2008), pp. 229-249.

Tues., Dec. 4: Andrew Valls, "A Liberal Defense of Black Nationalism," *American Political Science Review* 104 (2010): 467-481.