

Philosophy and Sociology of Race

Autumn Term 2022

Fridays, 14:30-16:30, B316/Amory

Modules: PHL2120; PHL3119; SOC2127; SOC3135

Lecturer: Dr Celso Neto (C.Alves-Neto@exeter.ac.uk)

Office Hours: Thursdays (13:00, online) or by Appointment

Course Description

In this module, we examine the nature of race and racism in contemporary society. We investigate whether races do exist and how the belief in their existence (or inexistence) might have significant socio-political consequences. Moreover, we analyze the key features of racism and its psychological and social dimensions, such as implicit bias, epistemic injustice, and color-blindness. The module is highly recommended for interdisciplinary pathways, and it is suitable for non-specialist students interested in the social-scientific and philosophical analysis of racial relations.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify and discuss key issues in the contemporary debate around the nature and social implications of race and racism.
- Distinguish and critically evaluate the central positions and arguments concerning the nature and social implications of race and racism in the contemporary debate.
- Articulate the differences and potential connections among the distinct scholarly traditions within the multi-disciplinary reflections about race and racism.

Topics of the Course

- Old and New Biological Race Realism
- Racial Constructivism: Political and Cultural
- Anti-Realism and Eliminativism
- Race and Medicine
- Racism: Volitional, Ideological, and Disrespect Accounts
- Dealing with Racism: Affirmative Actions and Reparations

Assessment

- *Essay Plan:* 500 words (formative assessment). Deadline: Week 5
- *Essay:* 2000 words (50% of the final mark). Deadline: Week 8
- *Written Exam:* 60-minutes (50% of the final mark). Deadline: Week 12

The written exam will be marked for clarity, accuracy, depth, and scope of knowledge. Sample questions will be distributed for study purposes before the exam.

Essays will be marked for clarity of presentation and argument, level of detail and material used, and originality of ideas.

NOTE: Guidelines for each assignment will be available on this module's ELE page. *Students are highly encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours (or by appointment) to discuss the essay plan and the final essay.*

Plagiarism and Misconducts

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. These and other acts of misconduct will not be tolerated by the instructor. Suspicious cases of misconduct will lead to an investigation and adequate penalty according to the Teaching Quality Assurance Manual ([12 - Academic conduct and practice - Teaching Quality Assurance Manual - University of Exeter](#)).

Schedule and Readings

Week 1: Introduction

- *No required Readings*
- Suggested: James, Michael and Adam Burgos, "Race", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2022 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2022/entries/race/>.

Week 2: Biological Race Realism

- Required: Hardimon, M. (2017). Minimalist Biological Race. *Oxford Handbook of philosophy and race*, 150-160.
- Suggested: Spencer, Q. (2018). Racial realism II: Are folk races real? *Philosophy Compass*, 13(1), e12467.

Week 3: Race Constructivism

- Required: Jeffers, C. (2019) Cultural constructionism. *What is race*, p. 38-73.
- Suggested: Haslanger, S. (2008). A social constructionist analysis of race. *Revisiting race in a genomic age*, 56-69.

Week 4: Anti-Realism and Eliminativism

- Required: Hochman, A. (2021). Janus-faced race: Is race biological, social, or mythical? *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 175(2), 453-464.
- Suggested: Appiah, A. (1995). The uncompleted argument: Du Bois and the illusion of race. *Critical inquiry*, 12(1), 21-37.

Week 5: Race in Medicine

- Required: Andreasen, R. O. (2008). The concept of race in medicine. *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Biology*, OUP.
- Suggested: Root, M. (2017). Race in the Biomedical Sciences. *Oxford Handbook Philosophy and Race*, OUP.

Week 6: Racism: The Volitional Account

- Required: Garcia, J. A. (1996). The heart of racism. *Journal of social philosophy*, 27(1), 5-45.
- Suggested: Appiah, K. A. (1990). Racisms. In D. T. Goldberg (Ed.), *Anatomy of racism* (pp. 3-17). Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

Week 7: No Class (November 11, 2022)

Week 8: Racism: The Ideological Account

- Required: Shelby, T. (2002). Is racism in the “heart”? *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 33(3), 411-420.
- Suggested: Haslanger, S. (2017). Racism, ideology, and social movements. *Res Philosophica*, 94(1), 1-22.

Week 9: Racism as Disrespect

- Required: Glasgow, J. (2009). Racism as disrespect. *Ethics*, 120(1), 64-93.
- Suggested: Blum, L. (2018). 3. What Do Accounts of " Racism" Do? In *Racism in mind* (pp. 56-77). Cornell University Press.

Week 10: Dealing with Racism: Affirmative Actions

- Required: Pojman, L. P. (1998). The case against affirmative action. *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 12(1), 97-115.
- Suggested: George Hull, „Affirmative Action and the Choice of Amends“, *Philosophia*, 43(1): 113–134Z
- Suggested: Stark, S. (2004). Taking responsibility for oppression: affirmative action and racial injustice. *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 18(3), 205-221.

Week 11: Dealing with Racism: Slavery Reparations

- Required: Thompson, J. (2001). Historical injustice and reparation: Justifying claims of descendants. *Ethics*, 112(1), 114-135.

- Required: Boxill, B. R. (1972). The morality of reparation. *Social Theory and Practice*, 2(1), 113-123.

Week 12: Recap

- *No required Readings*

Further Suggested Reading

All students must read the required texts listed above. The following introductory books and edited volumes are highly recommended:

- Bernasconi, R., & Lott, T. L. (Eds.). (2000). *The idea of race*. Hackett Publishing.
- Glasgow, J., Haslanger, S., Jeffers, C., & Spencer, Q. (2019). *What is Race?: Four Philosophical Views*. Oxford University Press.
- Taylor, P. C., Alcoff, L. M., & Anderson, L. (Eds.). (2017). *The Routledge companion to the philosophy of race*. Routledge.
- Zack, N. (eds.) (2016). *The Oxford handbook of philosophy and race*. Oxford University Press.
- Taylor, P. C. (2022). *Race: A philosophical introduction*. 3rd Edition. Polity.

Recommended Online Resources

- *SEP - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (available through electronic library).
- *PHILPAPERS*, a searchable repository of philosophical articles (online)
- *The Philosopher's Index*, searchable bibliography (available through electronic library).
- *JSTOR*, a searchable repository of scholarly articles (available through the library)