SYLLABUS

PHI 345-D

Philosophy of Race

Dr. Sergio Gallegos

Fall 2016

Office: Central Classroom 307J

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 12:30AM to 1:45PM

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**Required Texts**:

Robert Bernasconi and Tommy Lott, *The Idea of Race* (Hackett Publishing)

Charles W. Mills, *Blackness visible: Essays on Philosophy and Race* (Cornell University Press)

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White masks* (Grove Press)

Shannon Sullivan and Nancy Tuana (eds.), *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance* (SUNY Press)

Jorge Gracia (ed.) *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity* (Cornell University Press)

Other texts marked with (\*) will be available on Blackboard

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. a. Identify central philosophical topics and problems, especially those of a continuing nature, particularly those which pertain to race.

b. Locate and identify relevant sources that address these topics and problems

c. Apply key terminology and technical vocabulary unique to philosophy, including biographical information and historical detail as relevant.

1. a. Criticize possible answers and proposed techniques to address philosophical problems through the use of persuasive and well-reasoned arguments.

b. Consider and assess alternate solutions that may involve either the reformulation or the rejection of the problems under consideration.

1. a. Apply some theoretical considerations to either history or practice.

b. Communicate and evaluate in writing the claims of philosophy in contradistinction to those of science.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will examine philosophical writings that concern one of the central categories that has been used to understand human nature –namely, the category of race. In particular, the themes of the course will revolve around metaphysical issues such as the nature of human races (Are they non-existent entities, such as unicorns or witches? Are they biologically based groups in any sense? Or are they purely socially constructed ones?), epistemological issues such as the impact that race has in our epistemic and cognitive practices (does being member of a certain race make one susceptible to certain types of ignorance and/or epistemic bias?), ethical issues such as the moral status of practices such as passing as a member of another race or selecting a donor of a specific race for artificial insemination, and issues in social and political philosophy such as the use of race in criminal justice and in college admissions. The readings will include both classical and contemporary authors such as W. E. B. Du Bois, Franz Fanon, Charles Mills, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Derrick Bell, Sally Haslanger, Linda Martin Alcoff, José Vasconcelos, Angelo Corlett, Paul Taylor, Lucius Outlaw and many others.

**Grading for the Course**:

One research paper (8-12 pages): first draft due on October 25th; final version due on November 29th (30% of your grade)

Take-home midterm-exam: due on October 18th (25% of your grade)

Final in-class exam: during Finals’ week at date TBD (25% of your grade)

One take-home joint assignment (10%): due on November 15th

Grades will be determined as follows:

A: 94-100

A-: 90-93

B+: 86-89

B: 84-85

B-: 80-83

C+: 76-79

C: 74-75

C-: 70-73

D: 60-69

F: 0-59

**Reading Schedule**:

Philosophy can be very difficult reading. Take your time to slowly and carefully read the material by the following date (if this becomes too unwieldy, we’ll modify it).

August, T. 23rd: Course introduction and class activity

Th. 25th: Immanuel Kant, “Of the different Human Races”

T. 29th: Charles Darwin, ‘On the Races of Man’ from *The Descent of Man*

September, T. 6th: W. E. B. Du Bois, “The Conservation of Races”

Th. 8th: Anthony Appiah, “The Uncompleted Argument: Du Bois and the Illusion of Race”

T. 13th: Charles W. Mills, “But what are you really? The metaphysics of race” **Paper topics for final paper distributed.**

Th. 15th: Sally Haslanger, “Gender and race: (what) are they? (what) do we want them to be?” (\*)

T. 20th: Robin Andreasen “A new perspective on the race debate” (\*)

Th. 22nd: Quayshawn Spencer, “What ‘biological racial realism’ should mean” (\*)

T. 27th: Ron Mallon, “’Race’: normative, not metaphysical or semantic” (\*)

Th. 29th: Chike Jeffers, “The Cultural Theory of Race: Yet another look at Du Bois’ ‘The Conservation of Races’” (\*)

October T. 4th: Frantz Fanon, “The Woman of Color and the White Man” from *Black Skins, White Masks.* **Take-home midterm exam distributed.**

Th. 6th: Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness” from *Black Skins, White Masks*

T. 11th: Charles W. Mills “White Ignorance”

Th. 13th: Lucius T. Outlaw, “Social ordering and the systematic production of ignorance”

T. 18th: Robert Bernasconi “On needing not to know and forgetting that one never knew” **Take-home midterm exam due.**

Th. 20th**:** Dan Kelly and Erica Roedder “Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Racial Bias” (\*)

T. 25th: Ernest McMullan “Facing up to Ignorance and Privilege: Philosophy of Whiteness as Public intellectualism” (\*) **Draft of paper due**.

Th. 27th: Sergio Gallegos, ‘*Mestizaje* as an epistemology of ignorance: the case of the Mexican Genomic Diversity Project” (\*)

November, T. 1st: Film screening: “Lost boundaries” **Joint take-home assignment distributed**

Th. 3rd: Claudia Mills, “‘Passing’: the ethics of pretending to be what you are not” (\*)

T. 8th: José Vasconcelos, Selections from “The Cosmic Race” (*La Raza Cósmica*) (\*) **Review sheet for final exam distributed.**

Th. 10th: Charles W. Mills, ‘Do Black men have a duty to marry Black women?” (\*)

T. 15th: Paul Taylor, “Color and ‘courting’: the ethics of miscegenation” (\*) **Joint take-home assignment due**

Th. 17th: Camisha Russell, “Questions of race in bioethics” (\*)

T. 22nd: **Thanksgiving recess. No classes scheduled.**

Th. 24th: **Thanksgiving recess. No classes scheduled.**

T. 29th: Derrick Bell, “Racial realism” (\*) **Final paper due**

December Th. 1st: Linda Martín Alcoff, “Is Latina/o identity a racial identity?”

T. 6th: Angelo Corlett “Race, ethnicity and public policy”

Th. 8th: Diego von Vacano “Race and Political theory”

**Final in-class exam during final exam week (exact date TBD).**

COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES  
SYLLABUS POLICIES – Fall 2016

Students are responsible for full knowledge of the provisions and regulations pertaining to all aspects of their attendance at MSU Denver, and should familiarize themselves with the policies found in the [MSU Denver Catalog](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/).

WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE  
Students should be aware that any kind of withdrawal can have a negative impact on some types of financial aid and scholarships. For further information, click on read the [Withdrawals](http://msudenver.edu/financialaid/undergraduate/keepingawards/withdrawals/) page.

The Withdrawal (W) notation is assigned when a student officially withdraws from a course via the Student Hub after the drop deadline (census date) and before the withdrawal deadline posted in the [2016-2017 Academic Calendar.](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1295)  Deadlines differ proportionally for courses offered during part of a semester, including late-start and weekend courses. Students should refer to the Student Detail Schedule via the Student Hubto review drop and withdrawal deadlines for individual courses. When a student withdraws from a course, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student’s academic record with a “W” notation and counts toward the student’s attempted hours. The course is not calculated in the student’s GPA or quality points. Students who withdraw from a course are responsible for the full tuition and fees for that course. After the withdrawal deadline, students may not withdraw from a course and will be assigned the grade earned based on the course syllabus. A student-initiated withdrawal will appear as an “F” on the student’s academic record in any case of academic misconduct resulting in a permanent “F”.

For more information see the [Withdrawal](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#withdrawal) page.

**For your drop/refund or Withdrawal dates logon to your STUDENT HUB account and look at your Student Detail Schedule.**

ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL  
The Administrative Withdrawal (AW) notation is assigned when a student requests to be withdrawn from a course due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances beyond the student’s control.

Students may withdrawal themselves online through the withdrawal deadline. Students should meet with an academic advisor prior to withdrawing from a course. After the withdrawal deadline, students may submit a request for AW due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances.

For more information see [Administrative Withdrawal](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#administrativewithdrawal) page.

INCOMPLETE POLICY  
The Incomplete (I) notation may be assigned when a student who is achieving satisfactory progress in a course and who has completed most class assignments is unable to take the final examination and/or does not complete all class assignments due to unusual circumstances, such as hospitalization or disability. Incomplete work denoted by the Incomplete “I” notation must be completed within one calendar year or earlier, at the discretion of the faculty member. If the incomplete work is not completed within one year, the “I” notation will convert to an “F.” Students must have completed at least 75% of the course work to qualify for consideration for an incomplete. The student must be passing the course in order to be granted an incomplete. The course counts toward the student’s attempted hours, does not count toward earned hours, and is not calculated in the GPA or quality points.

Determination of eligibility does not guarantee that an incomplete will be granted. Students who meet the qualifications may request an incomplete from the faculty member who is teaching the course. The decision to grant an incomplete is up to the faculty member or at the department chair’s discretion. The decision to grant an incomplete as an accommodation based on a student’s disability shall be made by the faculty member or the department chair, if the faculty member is not available, in consultation with the Director of the Access Center.  
If an incomplete is granted, the student and instructor should fill out and sign an Incomplete Agreement form to clarify what the student needs to do to complete the course.

For further information see the [Incomplete notation](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301%23Grades_Notations#incomplete) page.

BEST GRADE STANDS  
A student’s grades for repeated courses will be removed from GPA calculations up to 18 semester hours, regardless of the original grade earned. If a student repeats more than 18 credit hours, the student may designate which of the course grades are removed from GPA calculations (up to 18 semester hours). Only the best grade and its associated credit will be calculated in the GPA and earned hours totals. Other attempts for the course will appear on the official academic record but will be annotated to indicate they do not count for academic credit or GPA calculation. This policy applies only to courses taken at MSU Denver, and it does not apply to courses designated as repeatable toward degree requirements.

For more information see the [Best Grade Stands](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301&hl=%22Best+grade+stands%22&returnto=search%23best_grade_stand#best_grade_stands) page.

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As students, faculty, staff and administrators of Metropolitan State University of Denver, it is our responsibility to uphold and maintain an academic environment that furthers scholarly inquiry, creative activity and the application of knowledge. We will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We will demonstrate honesty and integrity in all activities related to our learning and scholarship. We will not plagiarize, fabricate information or data, cheat on tests or exams, steal academic material, or submit work to more than one class without full disclosure.

For further information see the [Academic Integrity](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1302&hl=%22academic+dishonesty%22&returnto=search%23AcademicHonesty#AcademicHonesty) and [Academic Dishonesty](https://www.msudenver.edu/deanofstudents/studentconduct/academicintegrity/academicdishonesty/) page.

PROHIBITION ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Metropolitan State University of Denver prohibits sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual assault or sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and other forms of nonconsensual sexual conduct, including stalking and electronic harassment. Forms of intimate partner violence, including dating violence and domestic violence, are also prohibited under this policy.  Students, faculty, staff and visitors, should be able to live, study, and work in an environment free from sexual misconduct.  It is the policy of MSU Denver that sexual misconduct in any form will not be excused or tolerated.  Retaliation in any form for reporting such sexual misconduct or for cooperating in a sexual misconduct investigation is strictly prohibited and will be addressed as a separate violation of the Student Code of Conduct. This policy is promulgated under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000c).

For further information, see the [Title IX](https://www.msudenver.edu/deanofstudents/sexualmisconducttitleix/) page and refer to the [Student Code of Conduct](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1405&hl=%22sexual+misconduct%22&returnto=search) page.

# ACCOMMODATIONS TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Metropolitan State University of Denver is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this class and are requesting accommodations, then you must first register with the Access Center, located in the Plaza Building, Suite 122, 303-556-8387.

The Access Center is the designated department responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities. Accommodations will not be granted prior to my receipt of your faculty notification letter from the Access Center. Please note that accommodations are never provided retroactively (i.e., prior to the receipt of your faculty notification letter.) Once I am in receipt of your official Access Center faculty accommodation letter, I would be happy to meet with you to discuss your accommodations. All discussions will remain confidential. Further information is available by visiting the [Access Center](http://www.msudenver.edu/access/) website.

# CLASS ATTENDANCE ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students at MSU Denver who, because of their sincerely held religious beliefs, are unable to attend classes, take examinations, participate in graded activities or submit graded assignments on particular days shall without penalty be excused from such classes and be given a meaningful opportunity to make up such examinations and graded activities or assignments provided that advance written notice that the student will be absent for religious reasons is given to the faculty members during the first two weeks of the semester.

For further information, see the [Class Attendance](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1302#ClassAttendance) policies page.

# ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

Electronic communication (i.e., email and personal portal announcements) is a rapid, efficient and cost-effective form of communication. Consequently, reliance on electronic communication is expanding among students, faculty, staff and administration at MSU Denver. Because of this increasing reliance and acceptance of electronic communication, forms of electronic communication have become in fact the means of official communication to students, faculty and staff within MSU Denver. This policy acknowledges this fact and formally makes electronic communication an official means of communication for the University.

For more information, see the [Electronic Communication](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1404&hl=%22official+means+of+communication%22&returnto=search%23Electronic_Communication_Policy#Electronic_Communication_Policy) policy page.

# FRESH START

Students returning from a period of absence from MSU Denver may request that credit and grades from designated semesters previously attempted at MSU Denver not be calculated in GPA’s or total earned hours. If such a “Fresh Start” is approved, all courses from designated semesters will appear on the official academic record but will be annotated to indicate they do not count for academic credit or GPA calculation.

For more information, see the [Fresh Start](http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=1301&hl=%22Fresh+start%22&returnto=search%23freshstart#freshstart) page.

# *NOTE: If you have any difficulty accessing the hyperlinks in this document, please inform the instructor.*