PHIL 399.12
Philosophy of Race
Spring Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: Monday-1/Wednesdays 1-3:45 pm, ES054

Instructor: Celso Neto
Office: SS1229
Office Phone: 403-220-7518
Email: celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3pm

Course Description
This course examines core questions in the philosophy of race (including critical race theory). First, we discuss the reality of human races and related problems. Do races exist? If not, should we keep using the term “race”? If races exist, what grounds their reality? Is the reality of races independent from human values and goals? In the second part of the course, we turn to issues of racism and its social and psychological dimensions. What is racism? Can there be racism without racists? What is “white ignorance” and how does it promote injustice? How do racism and sexism intersect? How do DNA tests reinforce racism? How do these tests de-legitimize Native-American communities?

Prerequisites
No prerequisites

Course Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students should demonstrate knowledge and be able to critically engage with the basic philosophical literature on the philosophy of race (including critical race theory). They should be able to:

• Identify and evaluate the scientific and socio-political aspects of race and racism.
• Identify, analyze and evaluate complex views and arguments about race and racism.
• Relate these views and arguments to historical and recent events in politics and culture.
• Convincingly formulate and present arguments both in oral and written form.
• Provide useful, constructive feedback to each other’s assignments.

Required Texts
Required texts are posted on the D2L platform. See appendix for the course readings and the schedule.

Recommended Texts and electronic resources:

Course Assessment

There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam. A passing grade on any particular assignment is not essential to passing the whole course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>% of the Grade</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short written reflection</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>May 6th (in-class activity)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Discussion Questions</td>
<td>24 (4 each)</td>
<td>1 per week (see below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis 1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>May 13th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis 2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>May 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis 3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>June 10th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation: June 12th or 17th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Paper: June 17th</td>
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Short Written Reflection – For this assignment, students answer some basic questions about their experience and understanding of race and racism. Questions will be provided in class and the written exercise lasts around 20 minutes. Completion of the activity results in a full grade.

Discussion Questions – After reading the assigned reading for a class, students will write down a question about the reading. They will also briefly explain why this question results from the reading. **IMPORTANT**: Students are required to submit six discussion questions throughout the semester. Students can choose which classes they submit a question. They submit no more than 1 question per class. Students **cannot** submit discussion questions on the deadlines of the critical analysis assignment. Hence, students submit discussion questions to 6 out of 8 possible classes. Students must bring two copies of the discussion question and submit one copy to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Critical Analysis – For each analysis, students analyze the reading assigned for that respective day of class (deadline). The analysis consists of (I) summarizing the key ideas of the paper; (II) presenting one of its arguments in a detailed premise-conclusion format; (III) indicating which premise is the weakest one and explaining why; and (IV) writing down a question about the reading and explaining why this question results from the reading. **IMPORTANT**: Students must bring two copies of the analysis and submit one copy to the instructor at the beginning of class. Each analysis should have no more than two pages.

Oral Presentation – Students will choose a recent socio-cultural event or product (film, music) and provide an opinion analysis of it based on the readings and discussions in class. The instructor will provide guidelines for this assignment. The oral presentation should have 5 minutes plus 5 minutes of Q & A. **IMPORTANT**: There are two available dates for oral presentations. The maximum number of presentations is 20. If you want to give an oral presentation present and choose the day that best fits you, please schedule your presentation with me as soon as possible (first-come, first-serve).

Short Paper – Students will choose a recent socio-cultural event or product (film, music) and provide a written opinion essay of it based on the readings and discussions in class. Alternatively, students can
choose two readings and provide a written essay comparing them and explaining which views and arguments are sound. The instructor will provide guidelines for this assignment. The short essay contains 1,000-1,500 words.

**Grading Method**

This course uses a combination of letter and number grades. Each assignment will receive a number grade. The final grade is the sum of the grades obtained in the course assignments. The final grade will receive a letter according to the following conversion table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Number Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>96-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-95</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>80-84</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>55-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>50-54</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>45-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-44</td>
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**Late Assignments**

Extended deadlines will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances, and I will ask for appropriate documentation. You must contact me (celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca) with the documentation, failure to do so will result in a grade of zero.

**Communication with the instructor**

First of all, D2L is my main communication channel with students. I use the platform frequently, so please check D2L regularly.

You can contact me right after class, during office hours, by appointment, or by email. I will always reserve an extra 10 minutes right after class to answer your questions. I hold weekly office hours (see above). If you cannot come to the office hours, you can still set up an appointment. You can also reach me through email at any time (celso.alvesneto@ucalgary.ca). I respond to emails within two business days of receiving the message. If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus or D2L posting, I may not reply.

**IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. See the relevant section K.5 on ‘Academic Misconduct’ in the current University Calendar [http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html).

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

**Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf).
Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help
Desire2Learn is UCalgary’s online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning
Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at https://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for detailed information on common academic concerns.

Advice on Philosophy Courses
You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy’s website http://phil.ucalgary.ca, or contact one of Philosophy’s Undergraduate Advisors. David Dick – Undergraduate Program Director (dgdick@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty – Honors Advisor (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) or Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca).

Registration and Prerequisite Waivers
If you have questions regarding registration, or are seeking permission to waive the prerequisites for a course, email the Philosophy Department Undergraduate Program Administrator (UPA), Rebecca Lesser (rebecca.lesser@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing
All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy
The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student’s right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices
The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary’s Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Emergency Evacuation:
In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Other Helpful Contacts**

- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/
**APPENDIX – Tentative Course Readings and Schedule**

**Disclaimer**: The instructor may change the readings and the schedule depending on class dynamics or unforeseeable circumstances. All mandatory readings are posted on the D2L platform.

### Topic: Racialism and Race Skepticism

**Monday 6th**


**Wednesday 8th**


### Topic: Biological Race Realism: Defenses and Reactions

**Monday 13th**


**Wednesday 15th**


### Topic: Race Constructivism and Values in Science

**Monday 20th**
No Class – Victoria Day

**Wednesday 22nd**


**Monday 27th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic: Racism and The Racial Contract</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 29th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 3rd</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic: Racist Cognition and Attitudes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 5th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 10th</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic: Race, Gender and Indigeneity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 12th</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 17th</strong></td>
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