

WRITE AN ESSAY on one of the following 3 topics:

***DUE TUESDAY, MARCH 1* [lateness penalty, on 4-point scale: .2 if by March 3; .3 for every 2 days after that [must be by e-mail if non-class day]**

Essay should be c. 700-1000 words

1. RELIGION AND RACE

Frederickson (*Racism: A Short History*) sees bigotry, persecution, and oppression based on *religion* as different from bigotry, etc., based on *race*. (In your paper be sure to explain that distinction, as Frederickson understands it.)

Nevertheless, Frederickson regards some developments within Christianity, especially in relation to Jews and Africans, as paving the way for the emergence of a distinctly racial way of looking at (some) human populations in Europe and the Americas (Jews, Native Americans/indigenous peoples, people of African ancestry). Blum essentially agrees with Frederickson on this, but discusses it less extensively.

Write an essay in which you trace and explain this development toward “racialization,” bringing out as clearly as you can the aspects of these ways of looking at human populations that are *racial or on-the-way-to-racial*, and those that are *religious without being racial*. (It is important also to keep in mind Frederickson’s distinction between two kinds of race/racism—one against Jews and one against blacks.)

In your essay discuss *at least 3* of the following 5 phenomena: (1) The curse on Jews as Christ-killers in the gospel of John. (2) The official Church view that conversion of the Jews was essential to the salvation of the world (Frederickson, p. 21). (3) European views of Africans *prior* to the slave trade (26-29). (4) the early history of the European slave trade (29-30). (5) The treatment of the Jews in Christian Spain (31-33).

2. SLAVERY AND RACE

Trace the complex connections between slavery and race, looking *at least* at the following 3 historical phenomena: (1) Slavery in ancient Greece (Blum [109-111] and Frederickson [17]). (2) Slavery in Europe and Islam in the Middle Ages (Frederickson). (3) *Especially*, slavery in the U.S.

With regard to (3), be sure to discuss the following: (a) Why Africans were eventually—but not initially—chosen to be the only slave or slave-like population in the English North American colonies (which became the U.S.); (b) how the entrenchment of African-origin slavery affected the development and power of the idea of race in the U.S. (Keep in mind that slavery was not the only contributor to the development and popular entrenchment of the idea of race.)

3. SCIENCE and RACE

a) Explain how 18th and 19th century natural science contributed to the development and legitimizing of the idea of race, covering at least the classification schemes of the naturalists (Linnaeus, Blumenbach). In doing this, be sure to explain what is meant by “race” in order to make clear what it is that these scientists are contributing to. (Keep in mind that science was not the only contributor to the idea of race.)

b) Then describe how and why the rise of the science of genetics in the 20th century has led most (but not all) natural and social scientists to reject the idea of race that the earlier scientists had helped to develop.

c) Finally, and briefly, give your own informed view as to how much effect the genetic/scientific argument against race might have on the idea of race in popular thinking (in the U.S.).