

1st paper

WRITE AN ESSAY on one of the following 3 topics: Note at the beginning of your paper which question you are answering

DUE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 [lateness penalty, on 4-point scale: .5 if by October 9; .3 for every 2 days after that [must be by e-mail if non-class day]. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE TURN IT IN ON TIME!

Essay should be c. 800-1100 words [please provide a word count!].

Please number your pages to make it easier for my commenting system.

READ THE QUESTION VERY CAREFULLY. MAKE SURE YOU ANSWER EVERY PART OF THE QUESTION!!!

1. RELIGION AND RACE

Frederickson (*Racism: A Short History*) sees bigotry, persecution, and oppression based on *religion* as different from bigotry, persecution, and oppression 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. You will have to give Frederickson's conception of race in order to be able adequately to contrast religion with it, and to explain how certain religious developments paved the way for race, and other developments stood in the way of a fully racial understanding of those populations.

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 also those that are *religious without being racial*. Note that these can overlap; a way of viewing or treating a group can be religious and not racial, yet be on the way to 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 especially blacks but to some extent other people of color.)

In your essay discuss *at least 3* of the following 6 phenomena (you can do more than 3): (1) The curse on Jews as Christ-killers in the gospel of Matthew. (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). (6) The "curse of Ham." (But you may discuss other phenomena also.)

In your essay be sure to discuss more than one target population, e.g. not only Jews.

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. (Blum)

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 (i.e. pre-U.S.). Explain what this did or didn't have to do with race.
 (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.)

You will have to provide a conception of race in order to be able adequately to state how slavery was connected with its origins. You might frame your essay as an answer to the question, "In what way was

slavery a racial institution (keeping in mind that there were different forms of slavery)? In what way was it *not* a racial institution? How did slavery contribute to the development of the idea of race?"

3. SCIENCE and RACE

a) *Briefly*, 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 explain 3 arguments that (most, not all) 20th century scientists have provided to criticize the idea of race. Two of the 3 must make use of concepts from genetics, discussed in both Blum and Roberts. Since we have seen that different aspects or elements of the race idea can be the target of criticism, when you are explaining an argument, make clear which aspect of the race idea it is attempting to criticize. (The handout "the scientific critique of race" should help you with this part of question 3 [i.e. part b].)

c) Describe and explain *either* how Roberts thinks that genetic studies that make explicit use of racial categories (e.g. self-reported by subjects) are deeply flawed (see 68-74), *or* one example that Roberts provides in which she argues that scientists unknowingly make use of a racial mind-set in conducting, interpreting, or reporting their findings. (She gives several instances of this.)

GENERAL NOTES:

Citation: Citation is the process by which you acknowledge that something you have written has been taken from a particular source—for example, that a point you are making as part of an argument has been taken from an article or book that you have read. In this paper, I want you to give citations for every point that you draw from a specific author—Frederickson, Blum, or Roberts (or any other source you use, although I am not encouraging you to use outside sources for this particular paper). Failure to provide appropriate citation can constitute plagiarism, as it involves presenting work as your own which is not your own. (But making appropriate use of the works of others is nevertheless an important step in building the academic skills you are acquiring and refining in college.)

The best way to handle citations in this paper is a 2-step process:

1. When you draw a particular point from a specific page or pages of one of the authors, put the author's name and the page number(s) at the end of the sentence. For example, "Linnaeus thought that all humans could be categorized in four biologically distinct population groups (Blum 120)."

If you are taking all the point in a given paragraph from a few pages of a single author, you may put the citation at the end of the paragraph, and do not need to put at the end of every sentence in the paragraph.

Quotations: All direct quotations must be put in quotation marks with the author's name, and page, placed at the end of the quote (right after the quotations marks).

2. At the end of your paper, make a bibliography in which you list all of the sources you used and cited in the paper. The format I recommend for book citation is as follows:

Roberts, Dorothy. "Redefining Race in Genetic Terms," from Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-Create Race in the Twenty-First Century (New York, NY: The New Press, 2011).

The general form is this:

author's last name, author's first name. name of chapter, name of book in which the chapter appears (city and state of publication: name of publisher, date of first publication)

There is more than one acceptable bibliographic citation style, so I am not concerned that you follow mine exactly; different disciplines tend to have slightly different styles.

The use of a bibliography relieves you of having to use footnotes, and of repeating the whole title of a book or article every time you cite it.