

Winter/spring '09: Philosophy 232: **WRITING ASSIGNMENTS and FINAL GRADES**

These are the required and optional writing assignments for the course, with the % of the final grade they will count.

- 1) **Du Bois assignment [GRADED]:** DUE *Tuesday, February 17*. (Handed out in class on February 5.) **15%**
- 2) **Racial and ethnic identity assignment [UNGRADED]:** DUE *Tuesday, March 3*. 600-1000 words. Reflect on your own ethnic and racial identities (at this point in the course). You may discuss any aspect of this topic that you wish. You might discuss what importance your racial and/or your ethnic identity currently have to you personally. You might discuss how this meaning has changed over time. You might discuss how society sees these identities, and how this might or might not differ from the way you see them. You might discuss the *differences* between the meanings that your *racial* and your *ethnic* identity have to you (or to your family, or to society). It's up to you! **5%** [see below]
- 3) **Take-home midterm exam [GRADED]:** DUE March 24 (after spring break). **20%**
- 4) **Class discussion response assignment [UNGRADED]:** 600-1000 words. Pick any class discussion for the entire semester that you thought raised interesting issues. Express your opinion, in a thoughtful manner, about what different people in the class said in that discussion. This assignment should be turned in as soon after you write it as you can. But the *last* day it can be turned in is *April 28*. **5%**
- 5) **Optional extra credit racial and ethnic identity assignment:** DUE April 7. 600-900 words. Rewrite your racial and ethnic identity assignment (see 2 above) in light of your further reflections in the 5 subsequent weeks of the course. Explain where you have changed your mind or clarified what you thought in your original assignment. If you feel that you cannot improve on what you have written in your original assignment, just write another paper on some different aspects of the same topic. **5%**
- 6) Take-home final exam (due during final exam week): **35%**

There will also be quite a few unannounced quizzes on the reading that is due to be discussed that day. These cannot be made up if you are absent.

The two ungraded writing assignments will not be graded (although I will tell you if I think you have done a good or a poor job, especially where you discuss readings and issues from the course). However, they are subject to a **minimum quality standard**. If a particular assignment does not meet that standard, you may redo it one more time without penalty to bring it to the minimum standard. The assignments must also meet the **length** standard stated above (600 word minimum).

Final ungraded assignment grade: Your final ungraded assignment grade (which will be worth roughly 10% of your final grade) depends only on the *quantity* of acceptable, on-time journals you turn in. They will be calculated into your final grade in the following way:

If you turn in the 2 assignments you will receive B+. If the average of your other grades in the course is **higher** than B+, your ungraded assignment grade will not get factored in, and you will receive that higher grade as your final grade.

If you turn in 1 assignment you will receive C+ [i.e. 2.25]

0 assignments = F

Final grade: The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- ** *Du Bois assignment:* 15%
- ** *Mid-term:* 20%
- ** *Final exam:* 35%
- ** *Ungraded writing assignments:* 10% (see explanation above)
- ** *Attendance and participation:* 10%
- ** *Performance on unannounced quizzes:* 10%
- ** *optional extra credit:* 5%