

## PHILOSOPHY 232: PHILOSOPHY 'RACE,' AND MULTICULTURALISM

Larry Blum

W-5-012

**Office Hours:**

Tues 11:20-12:10

Thurs 3:30-4:30

or by appointment

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**REQUIRED BOOKS:**

**Books you will need (and are in UMass bookstore):**

1. W.E.B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk ("**Du Bois**") [There are *many* different editions of this book. The page numbers I have given you are from the Dover edition, which is the least expensive edition and is the one in the bookstore. But you can easily figure out what the reading is no matter which edition you have.]
  2. Amy Gutmann (ed.), Multiculturalism ["**Gutmann**"] [you won't need this until later in the course] [These books are also on reserve at the Reserve Desk at Healey Library.]
- \*\*Most other readings will be on Electronic Reserves ("ERes"), accessible on the Healey Library website. The password for the course is "multiculturalism." You should download these readings for your personal use. You must bring the reading to class on the day they will be discussed.

**Course website:**

Course material will be posted on the course website. The site will have all course announcements, assignments, handouts, the syllabus, useful links, other materials related to the course. The syllabus on the site can be used to access the ERes reading. It will also have a few of the readings—those that are not in the books or cannot go into the ERes system. These are marked on the syllabus. You should check the website regularly and especially if you miss class. The URL of the site is: [www.BlumPhilosophy.com](http://www.BlumPhilosophy.com)

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES** (See further explanation on "**Writing Assignments and Final Grades**")

1. 1 two- to four-page paper, due Feb 17: 15% (See further explanation on "**Writing Assignments and Final Grades**")
2. 2 two-to-four-page ungraded but required writing assignments: (a) your racial and ethnic identity. (b) class discussion response: 5% *each* (See further explanation on "**Writing Assignments and Final Grades**")
3. 1 take-home mid-semester exam, due March 24: 20%
4. 1 take-home final exam: 35%
5. 1 optional *extra credit* assignment, due April 17: 5%
6. Attendance and class participation: 10% [attendance will be taken every day; more than three absences will begin to count against your attendance grade; but your attendance grade will be higher in proportion to how few absences you have. The class participation grade is separate, but the two will be combined.]
7. Unannounced quizzes: 10%

*No computer use will be allowed in class!!*

**COURSE GOALS**

1. *Content:*

- a. To gain a greater understanding of ideas and concepts that are frequently used but not well-understood in contemporary public discussion about multiculturalism—especially the concepts of "race," "ethnicity," "panethnicity," "racial identity," and "ethnic identity."
- b. To understand some of the philosophical foundations for different and divergent opinions on questions of assimilation, ethnic and racial identity, "mixed" identities, in-group solidarity among ethnic and racial groups, the value of cultural pluralism, and respect for cultural groups

## 2. Skills:

- a. To learn to think analytically about emotionally charged and socially important topics.
- b. To learn to write more clearly and more analytically about personally and socially significant issues of race, ethnicity, and identity.
- c. To learn to express oneself in class on charged issues of race and ethnicity. To learn to monitor your own contributions so that you take an appropriate amount of time speaking in class, recognizing that the class benefits from maximal participation from all students.
- d. Developing your ability to listen to and learn from other students with different experiences and different points of view on these topics.

### **Academic honesty:**

I expect you to approach your work in this class with honesty and integrity. An important part of doing so is that written work that you submit to me must be entirely your own. When you make use of other sources (encyclopedia, internet, journal, books, newspaper, etc.), you must give full and accurate credit to the author of this source, and not pretend that it is your own. Cheating on papers and exams, for example by presenting another student's work as your own, is not permitted. The University's detailed rules for academic honesty are stated in the Student Handbook (under "Academic Honesty," part of the "Code of Student Conduct"). Please familiarize yourselves with these rules. Cheating and plagiarism are immoral and show disrespect for the university, your fellow students, your instructor, and yourself. Penalties for cheating normally range from failing the assignment through failing the course but can also include suspension or expulsion from the university.

**Disability:** If you have a disability and feel you will need accommodations in order to complete course requirements, please contact the Ross Center for Disability Services (Campus Center, 2nd floor, room 2010): 617.287.7430

### **READING:**

#### **---Race, Equality, and the Question of Assimilation---**

Jan 27: Introduction to course; introduction to W.E.B. DuBois

#### **||W.E.B. DuBois: An early racial egalitarian and anti-assimilationist||**

29: DuBois, The Souls of Black Folk (1903)

- (a) "Forethought," v – vi
- (b) "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (chapter 1), 1-7
- (c) "Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others" (chapter 3), 25-35

Feb 3: DuBois (continued)

- (a) "The Sorrow Songs" (chapter 14), 155-164
- (b) Begin reading Callan (see Feb 5)

#### **||Is assimilation good or bad?||**

5: Eamonn Callan, "The Ethics of Assimilation," 471-488, 493-496 [ERes] [from *Ethics*, 2005]

\*\*\*\*\*1st paper handed out\*\*\*\*\*

#### **||Some African American views of assimilation and "double consciousness"||**

10: Molefi Kete Asante, "Racism, Consciousness, and Afrocentricity," 127-143 [ERes] [from Gerald Early (ed.), Lure and Loathing (1993)]

12: Stephen Carter, "The Black Table, the Empty Seat, and the Tie," 55-79 [from Gerald Early (ed.), Lure and Loathing (1993)] [on website]

#### **---Racial, Ethnic, and Mixed Race Identities---**

#### **||White ethnics and the context of race||**

17: Thomas Guglielmo, "'No Color Barrier': Italians, Race, and Power in the United States," 29-43 [ERes] (from J. Guglielmo and S. Salerno (eds.), Are Italians White?)

+++++1st paper due+++++

19: Mary Waters, "The Costs of a Costless Community," 147-168 [ERes] [from Ethnic Options: Choosing Identities in America]

**||Latino/Hispanic identity and the U.S. racial categories||**

24: Linda Martín Alcoff, "Mestizo Identity," 257-278 [ERes] [from N. Zack (ed.) American Mixed Race (1995)]

26: Ian Haney-López, "Hispanics and the Shrinking White Majority," 42-52 [ERes] [from Daedalus, Winter, 2005]

**||Comparing Brazil and the U.S.||**

March 3: Edward Telles, "Rethinking Brazilian Race Relations," 215-238 [ERes] [from Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil (2004)]

+++++Racial and Ethnic Identity assignment due+++++

5: (cont.)

**||"Black" and "Mixed" in the U.S.: passing and the one-drop rule||**

10: (a) Langston Hughes, "Passing" [ERes], from The Ways of White Folks (1934)

(b) F. James Davis, "The Hawaiian Alternative to the One-Drop Rule," 115-131 [ERes] [from N. Zack (ed.) American Mixed Race (1995)]

12: (a) Barack Obama, chapter 4: 72-91 of Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance [ERes]

(c) Marie Arana, "He's Not Black," Washingtonpost.com, November 30, 2008.

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/28/AR2008112802219\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/11/28/AR2008112802219_pf.html)

(17) SPRING BREAK

(19) SPRING BREAK

**||Asian and Pan-Asian Ethnicity||**

24: Yen Le Espiritu, "Ethnicity and Panethnicity," 1-18 [ERes] from [Asian American Panethnicity (1992)]

+++++Midterm due+++++

26: Eric Liu, "The Accidental Asian," 57-84 [ERes][from The Accidental Asian (1998)]

**||Muslim identity: Religion and ethnicity||**

*The French context.*

31: (a) John Bowen, "Muslims and Citizens: France's Headscarf Controversy," Boston Review.

<http://bostonreview.net/BR29.1/bowen.html>

(b) Fadela Amara, "Those Who Wear the Headscarf," 73-75 [ERes] from Breaking the Silence: French Women's Voices From the Ghetto (2006)

(d) Katrin Bennhold, "A Veil Closes France's Door to Citizenship," New York Times, 7/19/08,

[www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/world/europe/19france.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/19/world/europe/19france.html)

April 2: Amartya Sen, "Religious Affiliations and Muslim History," 59-83 [ERes]

[from Identity and Violence (2006)] course withdrawal & Pass/Fail deadline

**||Western Europe, culture, religion, and race||**

7: George Frederickson, "Mosaics and Melting Pots," 36-42, [ERes]  
[from *Dissent* (Summer, 1999)]

+++++Extra credit assignment due+++++

---Multiculturalism: For and Against---

9: Bhikhu Parekh, "Equality in a Multicultural Society," 239-263 [ERes]  
[from Rethinking Multiculturalism: Cultural Diversity and Political Theory (2000)]

||Multiculturalism and cultural respect: The Philosophy of Charles Taylor (Canadian)||

14: Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition," in **Gutmann** (ed.), Multiculturalism: 25-44

16: Taylor, 44-74

21: Wolf, "Comment" on Taylor, in **Gutmann**, 75-86

23: (continued—no new reading)

||Critics of Multiculturalism||

28: Brian Barry, "The Dynamics of Identity: Assimilation, Acculturation,  
and Difference," 63-81 [ERes] [from Culture and Equality (2000)]

+++++last day for class discussion response to be turned in+++++

30: Jeremy Waldron, "Multiculturalism and M $\acute{e}$ lange," 90-101 (first part of article) [ERes] [from Robert  
Fullinwider (ed.), Public Education in a Multicultural Society (1996)]

May 5: Waldron, 101-118 (2<sup>nd</sup> part of article) [ERes]

7: K. Anthony Appiah, "Identity, Authenticity, Survival: Multicultural  
Societies and Social Reproduction," in **Gutmann**, 149-164

12: WRAP-UP