

Syllabus

PHIL 2270
Philosophy and Race
Instructor: Scott Hill

MW 11am-11:50am
HUMN 1B80
Teaching Assistant: Samuel Resz

This course will be about the metaphysics of race, race in the context of politics and professional ethics, latinx philosophy, and Native American philosophy.

Required Reading

Some readings will be online. Other readings will come from the following books:

Joshua Glasgow, Sally Haslanger, Chike Jeffers, and Quayshawn Spencer *What is Race? Four Philosophical Views* Oxford University Press

David Boonin *Should Race Matter? Unusual Answers to the Usual Questions* Cambridge University Press

Jonathan Lear *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*

Grading

Your grade will be determined by:

- Discussion: 10%
- 4 Online Exams: 10% each
- Cumulative Midterm Exam: 25%
- Cumulative Final Exam: 25%

Discussion: Each member of the class will receive two color-coded single-use cards with his or her name on them. You'll get one card for lecture with Scott and one card for recitation with Samuel. Starting the second week of classes, you will be expected to use all cards once every three weeks. Here is how you use the cards: If you want to ask a question or make a comment and would like to use a card, raise that card when attempting to get called on. Once called on, Samuel or Scott will collect your card. In order to get full credit in the participation category in a given three week period, each member of the class needs to use all their cards. At the beginning of each three-week period, I'll redistribute your cards. To use a card, the questions and comments need to be relevant and thoughtful. Also, to get credit for discussion over a three-week period, one must avoid use of electronic devices in class during that period. So remember to put away phones, computers, etc.

Note I: You do not need a card to ask a question or make a comment. Further discussion is welcome and encouraged! If you are out of cards you can raise your hand. We will call on people who need to use cards before we call on people who have raised their hands. But you will get plenty of opportunity to talk. The purpose of the cards is just to encourage discussion by getting everyone to talk at least once in lecture with Scott and once in recitation with Roger every three weeks. Please do talk more than that if you want!

Note II: If you have serious social anxiety and absolutely can't talk in class, please come talk to Scott or Samuel about it. We will figure out an alternative way for you to get discussion credit.

Online Exams: Four of the exams will be online and available on Canvas. You can use your notes and study together. But don't take the exam together.

Midterm Exam: This will be taken during recitation with Samuel on 10/25. This exam will be on paper.

Final Exam: This will be taken in HUMN 135 on December 16th at 1:30pm. This exam will be on paper.

Note: I see that a number of students are entitled to disability accommodations relating to exams. If you are entitled to such accommodations, please talk to me (Scott) and I will ensure that you receive them.

You may withdraw (although with a W on your transcript) until midsemester.

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and honorcode.colorado.edu.

Anyone caught violating CU's academic integrity policy (in any way) will automatically receive an F for this course, and may be subject to expulsion from the university. I take cheating very seriously.

Disability Services

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from [Disability Services](#) in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see the [Temporary Injuries](#) page and discuss your needs.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Please let me know well in advance about any such conflicts, and we'll work together to resolve them. For more information about the university's policies on these matters, see colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Discrimination and Harassment

We at CU Boulder are committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. The University of Colorado does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status in admission and access to, and treatment and employment in, its educational programs and activities. (Regent Law, Article 10, amended 11/8/2001). CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU Boulder policy, "Protected Classes"

refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or veteran status. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at hr.colorado.edu/dh/.

Office and Office Hours

Scott's Office #: N210A, Kittredge Central, North Wing, 2nd Floor

Scott's Office Hours: Monday 12pm to 1:30pm and by appointment

Scott's Email: scott.hill-1@colorado.edu . (Note: I don't check my email on evenings or weekends.)

Samuel's Email: TBD

Samuel's Office Hours: TBD

Class Schedule

(Tentative: Subject to Change)

The Metaphysics of Race

Week 1: 8/26, 8/21, 8/30

Sally Haslanger, 'Tracing the Sociopolitical Reality of Race', *What is Race?*
Chike Jeffers, 'Cultural Constructionism', *What is Race?*

Week 2: 9/2, 9/4, 9/6

Quayshawn Spencer, 'How to Be a Biological Racial Realist', *What is Race?*
Joshua Glasgow, 'Is Race an Illusion or a (Very) Basic Reality?', *What is Race?*

Week 3: 9/9, 9/11, 9/13

Quayshawn Spencer, 'Spencer's Reply to Glasgow, Haslanger, and Jeffers', *What is Race?*
Joshua Glasgow, 'Glasgow's Reply to Haslanger, Jeffers, and Spencer', *What is Race?*

First Exam

End of First Discussion Cycle

The Politics and Professional Ethics of Race

Week 4: 9/16, 9/18, 9/20

David Boonin, 'Thinking in Black and White: An Introduction to the Moral Questions America's Past Raises About its Present', *Should Race Matter?*

Week 5: 9/23, 9/25, 9/27

David Boonin, 'Repairing the Slave Reparations Debate', *Should Race Matter?*
David Boonin, 'Advancing the Slave Reparations Debate', *Should Race Matter?*

Week 6: 9/30, 10/2, 10/4

David Boonin, 'One Cheer for Affirmative Action', *Should Race Matter?*
David Boonin, 'Two Cheers for Affirmative Action', *Should Race Matter?*

Week 7: 10/7, 10/9, 10/11

David Boonin, 'Why I Used to Hate Hate Speech Restrictions', *Should Race Matter?*
David Boonin, 'Why I Still Hate Hate Speech Restrictions', *Should Race Matter?*

Latinx Philosophy

Week 9: 10/14, 10/16, 10/18

Linda Alcoff "Latino/as, Asian Americans, and the Black/White Binary"
Angelo Corlett, J. "Latino Identity and Affirmative Action"

Week 11: 10/28, 10/30, 11/1

Jorge Garcia *Forging People: Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in Hispanic American and Latino/a Thought* (selected passages)

Week 12: 11/4, 11/6, 11/8

José Jorge Mendoza *The Moral and Political Philosophy of Immigration* (selected passages)

Native American Philosophy

Week 13: 11/11, 11/13, 11/15

Jonathan Lear *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*

Week 15: 11/25, 11/27, 11/29

Jonathan Lear *Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation*

Week 16: 12/2, 12/4, 12/6

Adam Arola 'Native American Philosophy' *The Oxford Handbook of World Philosophy*

Week 17: 12/9, 12/11

Thomas Berger *A Long and Terrible Shadow: White Values, Native Rights in the Americas since 1492* (selected passages)

Final Exam Monday December 16th 1:30pm – 4pm