

Phil 3210 / 5210

Special Topics in Philosophy: Race in Philosophy of the Human Sciences
Professor Lewis Gordon

Time: Wednesdays, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Room: Anderson 722, conference Room (behind lounge)

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The concept of race and philosophy of the human sciences emerged out of the theological, epistemological, and political upheavals the consequence of which is the modern world. This course will explore their symbiotic relationship (if any) and the extent to which the question of race offers insight into the continued logic(s) of the human sciences. We will read a lot of material. The approach will be conversational. The instructor will offer introductory remarks and then different discussion leaders will introduce the texts. We will, in other words, be “reading together” as we critically assess this important historic and philosophical convergence.

Required texts:

I will post additional articles on blackboard. Selections from the classic texts are easily found on line or through a variety of anthologies (one of which is included here). Firmin’s is the only one on which there is, unfortunately, much needed by way of the anthologies catching up on his work (shame on them). A similar error is made regarding Las Casas in terms of anthologies on race. Our main focus will, however, be the debates that are unfolding on recent works across the human sciences. Thus here are the required texts:

Robert Bernasconi and Tommy Lott (eds.). *The Idea of Race*. Hackett Publishers.: ISBN-10: 0872204588

Bartolome Las Casas. *In Defense of the Indians: The Defense of the Most Reverend Lord, Don Fray Bartolome De Las Casas, of the Order of Preachers, Late Bishop of Chiapa*. Northern Illinois UP. : ISBN-10: 0875805566

Jean and John Comaroff. *Theory from the South: Or, How Euro-America is Evolving Toward Africa*. Paradigm Publishers. ISBN-10: 1594517657

Raewyn Connell. *Southern Theory*. Polity.: ISBN-10: 0745642497

Drucilla Cornel and Kenneth Panfilio. *Symbolic Forms for a New Humanity: Cultural and Racial Reconfigurations of Critical Theory*. ISBN-10: 0823232506.

Sara Daynes and Orville Lee. *Desire for Race*. Cambridge UP: ISBN-10: 0521680476

Ellen K. Feder. *Family Bonds: Genealogies of Race and Gender*. Oxford UP.: ISBN-10: 0195314751

Anténor Firmin, *The Equality of Human Races: A Nineteenth Century Haitian Scholar's Response to European Racialism*, trans. Asselin Charles. University of Illinois Press: ISBN-10: 0252071026

Paul Gilroy. *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Colorline*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press. ISBN: 0674006690

Lewis R. Gordon. *Fanon and the Crisis of European Man*. New York: Routledge. ISBN-10: 0415914159

Stephen J. Gould. *The Mismeasure of Man*. W.W. Norton. ISBN-10: ISBN-10: 0393314251

Robert V. Guthrie. *Even the Rat Was White: Historical View of Psychology*. 2nd Ed. Allyn & Bacon: ISBN-10: 0205392644

Walter Dignolo. *The Darker Side of Western Modernity*. Duke UP. ISBN-10: 9780822350781

Michael Monahan. *The Creolizing Subject: Race, Reason, and the Politics of Purity*. Fordham UP.: ISBN: 0823234509

Dorothy Roberts. *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century*. New Press.: ISBN-10: 159558495

Michel-Rolph Trouillot. *Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World*. Palgrave Macmillan ISBN-10: 0312295219

Your requirements are: (1) presentation on a selected text for the week with a discussion group (25 percent of grade), (2) final term paper, due by email attachment in MS Word and a PDF on April 30, 2011, worth 60 percent of your grade), and (3) participating in class discussions (with missing no more than 2 classes), remaining 15 percent.

| Sessions | Readings |
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| Session 1 | Handout syllabus and introductory discussion: Introducing philosophy of race and philosophy of human sciences. <i>Recommended:</i> Lewis R. Gordon, "Race," <i>Encyclopedia of Political Theory</i> and "Race," <i>Encyclopedia of Applied Linguistics</i> (both on blackboard) |
| Session 2: | Taking <i>raza</i> to the New World: Las Casas, <i>In Defense of the Indians</i> (entirety) and Enrique Dussel, "Anti-Cartesian Meditations" (blackboard). <i>Recommended:</i> David Nirenberg, "Race and the Middle Ages: The Case of Spain and Its Jews," in <i>Rereading the Black Legend: The Discourses of Religious and Racial Difference in the Renaissance Empires</i> , eds. Margaret R. Greer, Walter D. Mignolo, and Maureen Quilligan (U. Chicago Press, 2007) |
| Session 3: | Redding Lecture at 4 PM, Anderson Hall, Room 821, on race in this year's elections. Readings for the week into the next: Bernasconi and Lott (ed.), <i>The Idea of Race</i> (pp. 1–83). |
| Session 4: | Race in the formation of modern anthropology I: Anténor Firmin, <i>The Equality of Human Races</i> |
| Session 5: | "The savage slot": Race in the formation of anthropology II: Michel-Rolph Trouillot, <i>Global Transformations: Anthropology and the Modern World</i> |
| Session 6: | Race in the formation of sociology: W.E.B. Du Bois, <i>The Conservation of the Races</i> . Washington, DC: Negro Academy Press; reprinted in Bernasconi and Lott (eds.), 108–118; "The Study of Negro Problems," <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> XI (January 1898):1–23. Reprinted in <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 56 (March 2000): 13–27; and "Sociology Hesitant," <i>boundary 2</i> 27, no. 3 (Fall 2000): 37–44; Jane Anna Gordon, "Challenges Posed to Social-Scientific Method by the Study of Race." In <i>A Companion to African-American Studies</i> , pp. 279–304 (blackboard); Anthony K. Appiah, "The Uncompleted Argument: Du Bois and the Illusion of Race," in Bernasconi and Lott (eds.); L.R. Gordon, "Evaluation of Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois for Professor Emeritus in Sociology & Africana Studies" (blackboard). <i>Recommended:</i> Lewis R. Gordon, "What Does It Mean To Be a Problem?" chapter 4 of <i>Existential Africana</i> (Routledge, 2000). <i>Please note: There are two conferences on Du Bois taking place in Philadelphia in February—at the University of Pennsylvania on the 17th and at Temple on the 25th</i> |
| Session 7: | Social constructivity, sociology, and raciology, Sara Daynes and Orville Lee, <i>Desire for Race</i> ; Paul Gilroy, <i>Against Race</i> . <i>Recommended:</i> Ashley Montagu, "The Race Question" (UNESCO Statement), in Bernasconi and Lott (eds.) |
| Session 8: | Psychology, natural science, and the study of "man, the animal": Robert V. Guthrie, <i>Even the Rat Was White: Historical View of Psychology</i> ; Stephen J. Gould, <i>The Mismeasure of Man</i> ; Dorothy Roberts, <i>Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century</i> . <i>Recommended:</i> Lewis R. Gordon, <i>Disciplinary Decadence</i> |
| Session 9: | Of Genealogy and Structure: Ellen K. Feder, <i>Family Bonds: Genealogies of Race and Gender</i> and Drucilla Cornel and Kenneth Panfilio, <i>Symbolic Forms for a New Humanity: Cultural and Racial Reconfigurations of Critical Theory</i> |
| Session 10: | Creolizing historiography, political philosophy, political theory, and political science: Michael Monahan, <i>The Creolizing Subject: Race, Reason, and the Politics of Purity</i> and Jane Ann Gordon, <i>Creolizing Political Theory: Reading Rousseau Through Fanon</i> (blackboard) |
| Session 11: | Race and the Geography of Theory: Raewyn Connell, <i>Southern Theory</i> and Jean Comaroff and John Comaroff, <i>Theory from the South: Or, How Euro-America is Evolving Toward Africa</i> |
| Session 12: | On decolonizing the human sciences: Lewis R. Gordon, <i>Fanon and the Crisis of European Man</i> and Walter Mignolo, <i>The Darker Side of Western Modernity</i> . <i>Recommended:</i> Frantz Fanon, <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i> and Gordon, <i>Disciplinary Decadence</i> |
| Session 13: | Concluding discussions |

Any student who has a need for special accommodations due to disabilities should speak with me as soon as possible to discuss the specific situation and contact Disability Resources and Services, located in Ritter Annex, at 215.204.1280. Finally, the University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy #03.70.02) which can be accessed at http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02