

University of Central Arkansas
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Gender, Race, and Class PHIL 2360, CRN 25137
Spring Semester 2013
MWF 12:00 PM-12:50 PM, Harrin Hall 130

Professor: Dr. Taine Duncan

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Office Hours: M, W 9:00 AM-12:00 PM, 3:30-4:30 PM

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Course Description: We will uncover the ways in which gender, race, and class have an effect on theories of truth production (epistemology), philosophical reflections on the self (existentialism), and on social philosophical theories. Finally, we will reflect on the relation between the subject, the self, and identity politics, through exploration of philosophical autobiographies through journaling, creative assignments, and narrative texts (including film).

Learning Outcomes:

The goals of Gender, Race and Class are:

*To develop a basic understanding of the applications of philosophy and philosophical thinking to social questions of race, gender, class, intersectionality, and intersubjectivity.

*To sharpen students' awareness of the world, society and human relationships in the context of philosophy.

*To gain an understanding of major philosophical positions in socio-political philosophy, epistemologies of difference, contemporary philosophical autobiography, and critical race theory.

*To instill an appreciation of the intersections between philosophy and real-world experiences.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

*Apply critical thinking skills to reading and writing.

*Explain and compare philosophical perspectives.

*Confidently participate in discussions of challenging texts and ideas.

*Apply examinations of institutions and structures of power in terms of their implications for people as raced, gendered, and classed beings.

***Develop an appreciation of the critical thinking skills required for functioning actively in the world!**

Academic Integrity Policy: The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.

Attendance: Excessive absences will both directly and indirectly affect your grade. Because of the importance of participation to your grade in this course, having more than 3 unexcused absences will lower your grade. For excused absences, please notify me in advance, when possible. Additionally, three tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

Technology in the Classroom: Cellphones are strictly prohibited in my classroom. If I catch you texting in class, I will count that class day as an unexcused absence. The use of computers for notetaking is allowed, as long as you do not use your computers as a distraction for yourself or others.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities: The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Service, 450-3613 in Student Health, Suite 212.

Statement Regarding Diversity in the Classroom: My classroom and office are Safe Space Zones. This means that I welcome and respect students of all sexes, genders, and sexual orientations, and I expect students in my classes to offer respect for individual differences as well. Additionally, I value diversity of all kinds, and welcome students of differing races, religions, and life experiences into my classroom.

*Please also familiarize yourselves with the Sexual Harassment and Academic Policies sections of the Student Handbook.

Required Texts:

Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality: The Big Questions. Edited by Naomi Zack, Laurie Shrage, Crispin Sartwell. Blackwell, 1998. ISBN: 978-0-631-20875-4.

Other required readings will be posted to the course website. Check the website before every class.

Please also regularly check your BlackBoard Email Account for announcements and possible changes to the reading schedule! I consider your BlackBoard email to be required reading before every class!

Grades and Assignments:

Philosophical thinking is really a system for thinking critically. As such, much of your grade will be dependent on your participation in guided classroom discussion. You will also be writing short reflections based on the readings, have 2 tests, and put together a paper based on

10%--Participation: Each class we will spend the majority of our time discussing the readings for that session. In this syllabus, I have included a tentative reading assignment schedule; please read the assigned pages as homework for the next class session. This means I expect you to attend class regularly, prepared for the daily discussion. You will earn 5 points for being in class and actively listening. You may earn up to 5 points more for contributing to class discussion.

30%--Journal Portfolio: For specific reading assignments you are required to complete a one-page journal assignment. These journals will be based on your impressions of the reading assignment for that class. 10% of your grade will come from completing and exchanging the journals on time; 10% for editing and retyping corrected journals at the end of the semester; 10% for writing an introduction to this journal portfolio.

10% ---In Class Quizzes: Periodically, to check you have been reading and to help prepare you for exams, you will be given a pop-quiz. These are short quizzes based on the day's reading assignment.

10% ---Critical Analysis Paper: At the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a three page paper. More details to come!

40%-- Exams: You will have two 20-point exams. One around Midterm and one at Finals. These exams will have a vocab section, a logic section, and short answer questions based on quizzes.

Late Assignments: Journals and participation require your regular attendance and cannot be made up. Your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped, so if you miss a quiz do not worry.
Exams and quizzes cannot be made up without a university excuse.

Extra Credit: Over the course of the semester I will offer one movie night. Movie night will be an optional activity where I will show a thematically relevant film. To earn the extra credit, you will need to attend the film and write a 4-page response paper connecting the film to our current readings.

∞ **Week 1** ∞

Friday, Jan 11: What is Philosophy?: Intro to Philosophy, Intro to Skills Necessary for Studying Philosophy--Critical Reading, Vocabulary and Internet Resources.
Due for Mon: MLK Letter from a Birmingham Jail

∞ **Week 2** ∞

Monday, Jan 14: Discuss: Letter from a Birmingham Jail; Discrimination, Oppression & Resistance
Due for Wed: Maya Angelou Still I Rise
Wed, Jan 16: Discuss: Maya Angelou Poem, Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender
Assign: Logic Worksheet
Fri, Jan 18: Discuss: Logic, Critical Thinking, Notetaking
Assign: News Article and Cornell Notes Worksheet

∞ **Week 3** ∞

Monday, Jan 21: MLK DAY, NO CLASS
Wed, Jan 23: Discuss: Historical Situatedness and Racism. What is race?
Assign: PDF American Anthropological Statement on Race
Fri, Jan 25: Discuss: Biology vs. Culture; Nature vs. Nurture
Assign: 11-28, Journal 1

∞ **Week 4** ∞

Monday, Jan 28: Discussion: De jure and de facto racism
Assign: 43-48, Journal 2
Wed, Jan 30: Discuss: Racism in the Head/World **Assign:** 61-66, Journal 3
Fri, Feb 1: Discussion: Embodiment **Assignment:** 73-84, Journal 4

∞ **Week 5** ∞

Monday, Feb 4: Discuss: Mixed Race Identity
Assign: Cuomo PDF
Wed, Feb 6: Discuss: Cracking Up and Humor as Resistance
Assign: Stubblefield PDF, Journal #5.
Fri., Feb 8 Discuss: Post-Supremacy **Assign:** Yancy PDF

∞ **Week 6** ∞

Monday, Feb 11: Discuss: Troublemaking Allies and Autobiography
Assign: Philosophical Autobiography
Wed, Feb 13: Discuss: Fallacies
Assignment: Commercial Fallacy
Fri, Feb 15: Discuss: Fallacy Presentations
Assign: Fallacy Worksheet

∞ Week 7 ∞

Monday, Feb 18: Discuss: Intro to Class Theory **Assign:** Walt Whitman Poem and Pay Gap Worksheet

Wed, Feb 20: Discuss: "I Hear America Singing" **Assign:** 89-99, Journal 6

Fri, Feb 22: Discuss: Social Contracts and Class **Assign:** pp. 99-115, Journal # 7

∞ Week 8 ∞

Monday, Feb 25: Discuss: Alienation in Marx and Engels **Assign:** 116-121 in reader, Journal #8

Wed, Feb 27: Discuss: History, Utopia, Progress and Self Identification with Class

Assign: Exam Review Guide

Fri, March 1: MIDTERM EXAM

∞ Week 9 ∞

Monday, Mar 4: Film Week and Worksheet for Journal 9

Wed, Mar 6: Film Week and Worksheet for Journal 9

Fri, Mar 8: Film Week and Worksheet for Journal 9

∞ Week 10 ∞

Monday, Mar 11: Discuss: Interpreting Film **Assign:** 133-141, Journal 10

Wed, Mar 13: Discuss: Aesthetics and Class **Assign:** 153-160, Journal 11

Fri, Mar 15: Discuss: Friendships and Empathy **Assign:** Autobiography due 3/25

∞ Week 11 ∞

NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

∞ Week 12 ∞

Monday, Mar 25: Discuss: Introduction to Gender **Assign:** 165-183, Journal 12

Wed, Mar 27: Discuss: Binaries, Tensions, and Contentions **Assign:** 187- 211, Journal 13

Fri, Mar 29: Discuss: Gender and Advertising **Assign:** Journal Portfolio Due Monday, need 10

∞ Week 13 ∞

Monday, Apr 1: Discuss: Gender, the Coat-Rack and the Game **Assign:** 249- 254

Wed, Apr 3: Discuss: Sexuality **Assign:** 281-301

Fri, Apr 5: Discuss: Sex Labor **Assign:** 302-308

∞ Week 14 ∞

Monday, Apr 8: Discuss: Heterosexism **Assign:** Gender Challenge Activity

Wed, Apr 10: Presentations: Gender Challenge Activity **Assign:** Preves PDF

Fri, Apr 12: Discuss: Intersexed Identity **Assign:** Sex Terms Glossary

∞ Week 15 ∞

Mon, Apr 15: Discuss: Sex Terms; Intersectionality **Assign:** 325-336

Wed, Apr 17: Discuss: Mothertongue **Assign:** 345-350

Fri, Apr 19: Discuss: Cultural Identity and Values **Assign:** 358-367

∞ Week 16 ∞

Monday, Apr 22: Discuss: Personal Histories and Subjectification **Assign:** 3 page paper due at Final Exam: Analysis, Synthesis, Critique

Wed, Apr 24: Review for Final Exam Assign: Final Exam Wed May 1, 11-1.

Fri: STUDY DAY, NO CLASS