

SYLLABUS

Philosophy of Race PHIL 3850 & AFAM 3600

FALL 2009

3 credits

9:30 am - 10:45 am TR

West Hall 00150

Dr. Mike Orenduff

jmorenduff@valdosta.edu

Office: UC 2009

extension 4873

Office hours: TU AND TH 11:00 – NOON and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION (catalogue): A study of issues of race in society, with emphasis on developing a philosophy of race and anti-racism. The historical conceptualization of race will be addressed through the history of philosophy and in works by philosophers such as Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Dworkin, and Rawls. Various American philosophers of race will be introduced, including W. E. B. Dubois, Cornel West, Angela Davis, Michele Moody-Adams, Patricia Hill Collins, and Marilyn Frye.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (for this section) This particular section will concentrate on philosophical analysis, beginning with an attempt to bring clarity to concepts such as race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, and society. Only after achieving some level of clarity on those concepts will we examine some of the writers mentioned in the catalog description. We will also examine race issues in popular culture to see what philosophical ramifications there may be.

TEXTS: *I'm Not a Racist, But...*, by Lawrence Blum
Race Matters, by Cornell West

COURSE OUTCOMES:

After completing PHIL 3220, students should be able to:

1. Think clearly about race, ethnicity, culture, and related ideas.
2. Construct rigorous philosophical arguments.
3. Engage in philosophical give and take in class.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Class Discussion 15-40%

During the term, you will be responsible for participating in class discussions. Philosophy is based on the give and take of ideas, on dialog and on discussion. The class will be successful to the extent that everyone is thinking and participating.

Blog participation 15-40%

Students are expected to participate in blogging about the class and the topics on www.ThePotThief.blogspot.com.

In-class presentation 30%

Students or perhaps teams of students (depending on enrollment) will give a presentation from one chapter of one of the text or another source selected by the student(s) and approved by the instructor.

Examinations 30%:

ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (voice) and 219-1348 (tty). URL <http://www.valdosta.edu/access/>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Any student caught plagiarizing will receive a zero and may be reported to university officials. You can consult VSU policy on academic honesty at www.valdosta.edu/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml

CLASSROOM DEMEANOR: Students should arrive on time and switch off their cell phones and other electronic devices. Students are expected to pay close attention, listen to the instructor and their fellow students, make comments that add to and enliven the discussion without interrupting the speaker, and generally contribute to an atmosphere of teamwork wherein all the students and the instructor are working together to find the truth or at least understand what might count as the truth.

COMMUNICATION: Students should use their VSU e-mail account to check for messages sent from the professor.

CLASS SCHEDULE - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

	DATE	TOPIC
AUG	TU 18	Introduction
AUG	TH 20	Introduction
AUG	TU 25	Introduction
AUG	TH 27	Introduction
SEP	TU 1	Film 1
SEP	TH 3	Film 1
SEP	TU 8	Blum
SEP	TH 10	Blum
SEP	TU 15	Blum
SEP	TH 17	Blum
SEP	TU 22	Blum
SEP	TH 24	Film 2
SEP	TU 29	Film 2

OCT	TH	1	Blum
OCT	TU	6	Blum
OCT	TH	8	Blum
OCT	TU	13	Blum
OCT	TH	15	FIRST EXAM
OCT	TU	20	FALL BREAK
OCT	TH	22	West
OCT	TU	27	West
OCT	TH	29	West
NOV	TU	3	West
NOV	TH	5	West
NOV	TU	10	Film 3
NOV	TH	12	Film 3
NOV	TU	17	West
NOV	TH	19	West
NOV	TU	24	West
NOV	TH	26	THANKSGIVING
DEC	TU	1	Review
DEC	TH	3	SECOND EXAM