

Fall 2019
PHIL 2251, Section 01
Philosophy of Race
Final Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, six-to-eight pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due via email on Monday, December 16th at 10:30.

1. Linda Martín Alcoff maintains that “speaking for others” is often problematic and even harmful. What is her argument, and how do you think that it applies to our racial discourses? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
2. Paul C. Taylor describes three “challenges to race-thinking.” What are they, and what does he ultimately say about them? Do you agree? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
3. W.E.B. Du Bois affirms the existence of races, whereas Kwame Anthony Appiah forcefully denies their existence. How does this debate go, and what do you think about it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. Lawrence Blum explores Latinx identity in his work, and David Haekwon Kim explores Asian identity. What critical observations do they make, and what do you think about them? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
5. In *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon argues that lingual/cultural mastery is not a viable approach to black liberation. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
6. In *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon criticizes black people who seek white love in an attempt to “whiten” themselves. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
7. In *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon discusses négritude as an approach to black liberation. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
8. In *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon ultimately argues for sociopolitical transformation. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
9. Lewis R. Gordon theorizes anti-black racism in terms of existentialism and bad faith. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.

10. Cornel West presents a genealogical account of modern racism. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
11. In *The Racial Contract*, Charles W. Mills critically analyzes institutional racism and defends a non-ideal approach to political philosophy. What is his argument, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
12. Both James Baldwin and Cheryl I. Harris address the meaning of “whiteness.” What do they say about it, and what do you make of their critical assessments? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
13. In *The Future of Whiteness*, Linda Martín Alcoff explores the difficult issue of whiteness. Critically review her book, and say a few words about its relevance today. Use three additional sources in your discussion.