

Fall 2017
PHIL 2251, Section 01
First Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, at least six 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 at the beginning of class on Monday, October 16th.

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. Naomi Zack and Lewis R. Gordon both address the issue of mixed race identity, but they advance different positions. How does this debate go, and what do you think about it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
5. 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.