

Fall 2019
PHIL 2251, Section 01
Philosophy of Race
Reading Responses
Prof. Douglas Ficek

This is a reading-intensive course, and many of the readings are dense and difficult. To help you with them, and to ensure that you're doing them, I'm assigning fifteen reading responses, the prompts for which are listed below. Here are the guidelines:

1. For full credit, you must complete fifteen reading responses – no more, no less.
2. They should be one-page in length, double-spaced, which is roughly 250 words.
3. Five texts require reading responses; you will have to choose the remaining ten.
4. Your writing should be focused, detailed, and well-revised.
5. You have to show me that you've really engaged the texts.
6. Your reading responses are due at the beginning of class.
7. They are also due before we cover the specific readings.
8. A score of 3 is full credit (100%).
9. A score of 2 is partial credit (80%).
10. And a score of 1 is partial credit (60%).
11. These reading responses constitute 40% of your final grade, which is a lot.
12. Take them seriously, and try to enjoy engaging with some interesting ideas.

Here are the prompts for your reading responses:

1. “The Problem of Speaking for Others” by Linda Martín Alcoff
According to Alcoff, why is speaking for others often wrong?
2. REQUIRED: “Three Challenges to Race-Thinking” by Paul C. Taylor
According to Taylor, what are three challenges to race-thinking?
3. “The Conservation of Races” by W.E.B. Du Bois
How does Du Bois define race?
4. “Illusions of Race” by Kwame Anthony Appiah
What is Appiah’s critique of Du Bois?
5. REQUIRED: “Conserve’ Races? In Defense of W.E.B. Du Bois” by Lucius Outlaw
How does Outlaw defend Du Bois?
6. “Latinos on Race and Ethnicity: Alcoff, Corlett, and Gracia” by Lawrence Blum
What do Alcoff, Corlett, and Gracia say about race and ethnicity?
7. “The Invisible Asian” by George Yancy and David Haekwon Kim
What does Kim say about race and ethnicity?

8. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" by W.E.B. Du Bois
According to Du Bois, what is double-consciousness?
9. *Black Skin, White Masks* by Frantz Fanon, pp. xi-63
What are the key points in these pages?
10. *Black Skin, White Masks* by Frantz Fanon, pp. 64-119
What are the key points in these pages?
11. *Black Skin, White Masks* by Frantz Fanon, pp. 120-206
What are the key points in these pages?
12. "Racism as a Form of Bad Faith" by Lewis R. Gordon
According to Gordon, why is racism a form of bad faith?
13. REQUIRED: "A Genealogy of Modern Racism" by Cornel West
According to West, what produced the modern conception of race?
14. "Racial Formation" by Michael Omi and Howard Winant
How do Omi and Winant describe racial formation?
15. "The Racial State" by Michael Omi and Howard Winant
How do Omi and Winant describe the racial state?
16. REQUIRED: *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills, pp. 1-40
What are the key points in these pages?
17. *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills, pp. 41-90
What are the key points in these pages?
18. *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills, pp. 91-133
What are they key points in these pages?
19. "White Man's Guilt" by James Baldwin
What does Baldwin say about white guilt?
20. REQUIRED: "Whiteness as Property" by Cheryl I. Harris
According to Harris, how is whiteness property?
21. *The Future of Whiteness* by Linda Martín Alcoff, pp. 1-38
What are the key points in these pages?
22. *The Future of Whiteness* by Linda Martín Alcoff, pp. 39-90
What are the key points in these pages?
23. *The Future of Whiteness* by Linda Martín Alcoff, pp. 91-204
What are the key points in these pages?