

Fall 2017
PHIL 2251, Section 01
Philosophy of Race
Third Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, 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 Saturday, December 16th.

1. 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.
2. In *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander describes contemporary racism in the criminal justice system. Critically review her book, and say a few words about its relevance today. Use three additional sources in your discussion.
3. Both W.E.B. Du Bois and James Baldwin address the meaning of “whiteness.” What do they say about it, and what do you make of their critical assessment? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. Cheryl I. Harris describes “whiteness” as a unique form of property. What does she mean by this, and what do you make of her argument? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. 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.
5. In light of the course readings, what do you make of the Black Lives Matter movement, and what do you think people should do about institutional racism? Use five additional sources in your discussion.