

MA Seminar  
Critical Race Theory

Mondays, 2-4pm

WEBEX link:

<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin-en/j.php?MTID=m95395d9f5ad24edf41d1a666a5722e53>

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Office hours: via email/Webex

April 12 [asynchronous]

Introductory Readings:

Charles Mills: Critical Philosophy of Race

Robert Bernasconi: Critical Philosophy of Race and Philosophical Historiography

April 19 [synchronous]

Introduction and opening discussion

[no new readings]

April 26 [asynchronous]

Foundations I: Du Bois

W.E.B. Du Bois: The Souls of Black Folks, chs. 1 & 6

W.E.B. Du Bois: Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept, chs. 5-7

Background reading: Robert Gooding-Williams; W.E.B. Du Bois; Paul C. Taylor; W.E.B. Du Bois

May 3 [synchronous]

Foundations I: Du Bois

Discussion

[no new readings]

May 10 [synchronous]

Foundations II: Fanon

Frantz Fanon: Black Skin, White Masks, Introduction & ch. 5

Background reading: Lewis Gordon: What Fanon Said, chs. 2 & 3; John Drabinski: Frantz Fanon

May 17 [synchronous]

Foundations III: Black Feminism

The Combahee River Collective Statement

Patricia Hill Collins: Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought

Background reading: Patricia Hill Collins: Distinguishing Features of Black Feminist Thought; Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective

May 24 [Holiday: No class!]

May 31 [asynchronous]

Racism, Colonialism, Capitalism I

Cedric Robinson: Black Marxism, Introduction & ch. 1

Background reading: Robin Kelley: What Did Cedric Robinson Mean by Racial Capitalism? [you can also watch: <http://scholarsforsocialjustice.com/what-is-racial-capitalism-and-why-does-it-matter>]; Michael Walzer: A Note on Racial Capitalism; Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò & Liam Kofi Bright: A Response to Michael Walzer; Michael Walzer: A Reply to Olúfẹ̀mi O. Táíwò & Liam Kofi Bright; Satnam Virdee: Racialized Capitalism; Gargi Bhattacharyya: Ten Theses on Racial Capitalism

June 7 [synchronous]

Racism, Colonialism, Capitalism II

Ruth W. Gilmore: Geographies of Racial Capitalism

June 14 [synchronous]

Structural Racism and Ideology

César Cabezas: On the Connection Between Institutional Racism and Racist Ideology

Background reading: Eduardo Bonilla-Silva: What Is Racism? The Racialized Social System Framework; Charles Mills: White Supremacy; Charles Mills: The Racial Contract, Introduction & ch. 1; Tommie Shelby: Ideology, Racism, and Critical Social Theory  
[Online discussion with César Cabezas]

June 21 [synchronous]

New Formations of Racism I

Etienne Balibar: Is There a Neo-Racism?

Etienne Balibar: Racism Revisited

Background reading: Etienne Balibar: War, Racism and Nationalism

June 28 [synchronous]

New Formations of Racism II

Gurminder Bhambra: The Current Crisis of Europe: Refugees, Colonialism, and the Limits of Cosmopolitanism

Background reading: Gurminder Bhambra: Brexit, Trump, and 'Methodological Whiteness': On the Misrecognition of Race and Class

[Online discussion with Gurminder Bhambra]

July 5 [synchronous]

Anti-Racism I

Paul Gilroy: Never Again: Refusing Race and Salvaging the Human

Background reading: Paul Gilroy: Against Race, ch. 1; Paul Gilroy: Racism Ends Here; Ghassan Hage: Recalling Anti-Racism

July 12

Anti-Racism II

Manuela Bojadžijev: Anti-Racism as Method

[Online discussion with Manuela Bojadžijev]

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All readings are available as pdf files via Blackboard.

Assessment/Requirements:

- Careful study of the assigned readings, active participation in online discussion forums and regular attendance of synchronous meetings (please note that you are expected to communicate absences beforehand).
- For at least 4 sessions of your choice you are expected to make substantial contributions to the discussion forum; these can take a variety of forms including, but not limited to, posting (non-trivial) questions about the readings, answering questions others have posted, commenting on the readings and their strengths and shortcomings, discussing an example related to the readings, making connections etc.
- Final paper (ca. 5000-7500 words, depending on the requirements of the module you are taking; first outline due July 31, final version due September 31, both via email).
- The final grade is based on the paper and forum contributions.

As a member of the campus community you should see yourself as sharing a commitment to academic integrity and fairness. Any form of plagiarism is incompatible with such a commitment, and will result in the student failing the assignment. For some further information, see: [https://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we01/studieren/studium/download/FU-Philosophie\\_Hausarbeiten.pdf](https://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we01/studieren/studium/download/FU-Philosophie_Hausarbeiten.pdf)

Online teaching etiquette:

- Mutual respect is particularly important under the conditions of the pandemic. Please let me know if your active participation in the seminar is made difficult or impossible due to other obligations (care for children or other relatives) or concentration and motivation problems and I will be happy to look for flexible solutions.
- I explicitly encourage feedback on the form and content of the seminar and will also create opportunities for this during the meetings.
- I will open the online seminar room at 14:00 and close it at 16:00 in order to give all participants the opportunity to resolve any technical difficulties beforehand and to exchange information informally with one another as well as to ask questions concerning the course.

- Please make sure that your cameras are switched on as much as possible (technical and social circumstances permitting) in order to create a more personal seminar atmosphere.
- Please make sure that your microphones are only switched on when you are speaking.
- Please make sure that you behave in a manner appropriate for a seminar even if participating from home (e.g. please refrain from smoking or eating).
- If you would like to say something, please post + or \* in the chat. You can also write 'follow up', if you'd like to make a point directly related to what is being said. You can also ask your question via the chat if this is preferable for technical or other reasons.
- I encourage you to establish networks amongst each other and to form discussion groups in addition to the seminar sessions.
- For further thoughts on online teaching please consult the guidelines from the Department of Philosophy on which the above is also based:  
<https://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/we01/media/AG-Dig-Handreichung-Final.pdf>

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#### Readings

- Balibar, Etienne: Is There a 'Neo-Racism'?, in: Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein: Race, Class, Nation. Ambiguous Identities, New York: Verso 1991, 17-28.
- Balibar, Etienne: Racism Revisited, in: PMLA, 123 (2008), 5, 1630-1639.
- Bernasconi, Robert: Critical Philosophy of Race and Philosophical Historiography, in: Paul C. Taylor et al. (eds.): The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Race, New York: Routledge 2017, 3-13.
- Bhambra, Gurinder: The Current Crisis of Europe: Refugees, Colonialism, and the Limits of Cosmopolitanism, in: European Law Journal, 23 (2017), 395-405.
- Bojadžijev, Manuela: Anti-Racism as Method, in: John Solomos (ed.): The Routledge International Handbook of Contemporary Racisms, London: Routledge 2020, 193-204.
- Cabezas, César: On the Connection Between Institutional Racism and Racist Ideology, unpubl. ms.
- Du Bois, W.E.B.: Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept, Oxford: Oxford UP 2007.
- Du Bois, W.E.B.: The Souls of Black Folk, Oxford: Oxford UP 2007.
- Fanon, Frantz: Black Skin, White Masks, London: Pluto 2008.
- Gilmore, Ruth W.: Geographies of Racial Capitalism, <https://antipodeonline.org/geographies-of-racial-capitalism/>.
- Gilroy, Paul: Never Again: Refusing Race and Salvaging the Human, <https://www.newframe.com/long-read-refusing-race-and-salvaging-the-human/>.
- Hill Collins, Patricia: Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought, in: Social Problems, 33 (1986), 6, S14-S32.

Mills, Charles W.: *Critical Philosophy of Race*, in: Hermann Cappelen et al. (eds.): *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophical Methodology*, Oxford: Oxford UP 2016, 709-732.

Robinson, Cedric: *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2000 [1983].

The Combahee River Collective Statement, <https://combaheerivercollective.weebly.com/the-combahee-river-collective-statement.html>.

#### Background Reading

Balibar, Etienne: *War, Racism and Nationalism*, <https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/1559-etienne-balibar-war-racism-and-nationalism>.

Bhambra, Gurminder: *Brexit, Trump, and 'Methodological Whiteness': On the Misrecognition of Race and Class*, in: *The British Journal of Sociology*, 68 (2017), S214-S232.

Bhattacharyya, Gargi: *Ten Theses on Racial Capitalism*, in: *Rethinking Racial Capitalism: Questions of Reproduction and Survival*, London: Rowman and Littlefield 2018, ix-x.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo: *White Supremacy and Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*, London: Rienner 2001, 21-48.

Drabinski, John: *Frantz Fanon*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2019/entries/frantz-fanon>.

Gilroy, Paul: *Against Race: Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP 2000

Gilroy, Paul: *Race Ends Here*, in: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 21 (1998), 5, 838-847.

Gooding-Williams, Robert: *W.E.B. Du Bois*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2020/entries/dubois>.

Gordon, Lewis: *What Fanon Said: A Philosophical Introduction to His Life and Thought*, New York: Fordham UP 2015.

Hage, Ghassan: *Recalling Anti-Racism*, in: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 39 (2016), 1, 123-133.

Haslanger, Sally: *Racism, Ideology, and Social Movements*, in: *Res Philosophica*, 94 (2017), 1, 1-22.

Hill Collins, Patricia: *Defining Black Feminist Thought*, in: *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*, New York: Routledge 2000, ch. 2.

Kelley, Robin: *What did Cedric Robinson mean by racial capitalism?*, <http://bostonreview.net/race/robin-d-g-kelley-what-did-cedric-robinson-mean-racial-capitalism>.

Mills, Charles W.: *The Racial Contract*, Ithaca: Cornell UP 1997.

Mills, Charles: *White Supremacy*, in: Paul C. Taylor et al. (eds.): *The Routledge Companion to Philosophy of Race*, New York: Routledge 2017, 475-487.

Shelby, Tommie: *Ideology, Racism, and Critical Social Theory*, in: *Philosophical Forum* 34 (2003), 2, 153–188.

Táíwò, Olúfẹ́mi O. and Liam Kofi Bright: *A Response to Michael Walzer*. [https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online\\_articles/a-response-to-michael-walzer](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/a-response-to-michael-walzer).

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta: *Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*, <https://monthlyreview.org/2019/01/01/black-feminism-and-the-combahee-river-collective/>.

Taylor, Paul: W.E.B. Du Bois, in: *Philosophy Compass*, 5 (2010), 904-915.  
Virdee, Satnam: Racialized Capitalism, in: *Sociological Review*, 67 (2019), 1, 3-27.  
Walzer, Michael: A Note on Racial Capitalism,  
[https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online\\_articles/a-note-on-racial-capitalism](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/a-note-on-racial-capitalism).  
Walzer, Michael: A Reply to Olúfemi O. Táíwò and Liam Kofi Bright,  
[https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online\\_articles/a-reply-to-olufemi-o-taiwo-and-liam-kofi-bright](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/a-reply-to-olufemi-o-taiwo-and-liam-kofi-bright).

#### Further Reading

Ahmed, Sara: A Phenomenology of Whiteness, in: *Feminist Theory*, 8 (2007), 2, 149-168.  
Alcoff, Linda: *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*, New York: Oxford UP 2006.  
Appiah, Anthony K.: *In My Father's House*, Oxford: Oxford UP 1992.  
Bernasconi, Roberto, and Sybol Cook (eds.): *Race and Racism in Continental Philosophy*,  
Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP 2003.  
Crenshaw, Kimberlé, et al. (eds.): *Critical Race Theory: Key Writings that Formed the  
Movement*, New York: New Press 1995.  
Crenshaw, Kimberlé: Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence  
Against Women of Color, in: *Stanford Law Review*, 43 (1991), 1241-1299.  
Davis, Angela: *Women, Race and Class*, New York: Vintage 1983.  
Essed, Philomena and David T. Goldberg (eds.): *Race Critical Theories: Text and Context*, Oxford:  
Blackwell 2001.  
Ferreira da Silva, Denise: *Toward a Global Idea of Race*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota  
Press 2007.  
Fields, Karen E. and Fields, Barbara J.: *Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life*,  
London: Verso 2012.  
Frederickson, George: *Racism*, Princeton UP 2002.  
Gilroy, Paul: The End of Anti-Racism, in: *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 17 (1990), 1,  
71-83.  
Goldberg, David T.: *Are We All Post-Racial Yet?*, Cambridge: Polity 2015.  
Gooding-Williams, Robert: History of African American Political Thought and Antiracist Critical  
Theory, in Naomi Zack (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Race*, Oxford: Oxford UP  
2017, 235-245.  
Gooding-Williams, Robert: *In the Shadow of Du Bois: Afro Modern Political Thought in America*,  
Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP 2009.  
Hall, Stuart: *The Fateful Triangle: Race, Ethnicity, Nation*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP 2017.  
Hall, Stuart: *Selected Writings on Race and Difference*, Durham: Duke UP 2021.  
Haslanger, Sally et al.: *What is Race? Four Philosophical Views*, New York: Oxford UP 2019.  
Haslanger, Sally: *Resisting Reality: Social Construction and Social Critique*, Oxford: Oxford UP  
2012.  
Hill Collins, Patricia: *Intersectionality as Critical Social Theory*, Durham: Duke UP 2019.  
James, Michael and Adam Burgos, *Race*,  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2020/entries/race/>.

Lebron, Chris: *The Color of Our Shame: Race and Justice in our Time*, New York: Oxford UP 2013.

Mbembe, Achille: *Critique of Black Reason*, Durham: Duke UP 2017.

Mbembe, Achille: *Necropolitics*, Durham: Duke UP 2019.

Medina, José: *The Epistemology of Resistance. Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations*, Oxford: Oxford UP 2013.

Melamed, Jodi: *Racial Capitalism*, in: *Critical Ethnic Studies*, 1 (2015), 1, 76-85.

Memmi, Albert: *Racism*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press 2000.

Miles, Robert and Malcolm Brown: *Racism*, New York: Routledge 2003.

Mills, Charles: *Black Rights/White Wrongs: The Critique of Racial Liberalism*, Oxford: Oxford UP 2017.

Pateman, Carole and Charles Mills: *Contract and Domination*, Cambridge: Polity 2007.

Shelby, Tommie: *We Who are Dark: The Philosophical Foundations of Black Solidarity*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP 2005.

Sheth, Falguni A.: *Toward a Political Philosophy of Race: Technologies and Logics of Exclusion*, Albany: SUNY Press 2009.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta: *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, Chicago: Haymarket 2016.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta (ed.): *How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective*, Chicago: Haymarket 2017.

Taylor, Paul: *Race: A Philosophical Introduction*, Cambridge: Polity 2013.