PHILOSOPHY 10206: THE ETHNOLOGISTS: THE RACIAL ORIGINS OF GENDER AND THE FEMININE

INSTRUCTOR: PROF. TOMMY J. CURRY
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COURSE TIME: FRIDAY, 2:10 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.
OFFICE HOURS: AVAILABLE ON LEARN
LOCATION: AVAILABLE ON LEARN

DESCRIPTION: This class will trace the actual historical construction of race and the feminine from the 1800s to the early 20th century. Particular attention will be given to the descriptions of manhood and savagery proposed by ethnologists of the 19th and sexologists of the 20th century. Beginning with the development of the concept of gender in the annals of ethnology, this course will trace the construction of the vulnerable white woman to the savage male, and explore how these ideas served as the basis of mid-20th century ideas of feminism and scientific theories of racial inferiority.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students should be able to explain influential positions and arguments concerning the development of the race concept and its relationship to the feminine in 19th century ethnology as well as critically assess these positions and arguments, drawing their own reasoned conclusions about their defensibility. Students should be able to explain the relationship between 19th and 20th century theories of racial inferiority to contemporary arguments about gender, masculinity, and femininity, and articulate their own views regarding the colonial history of the racial theories invented by Europe and America and its continuing consequences for humanity in general. It is anticipated that student’s historical knowledge will enable them to participate meaningfully in societal conversations concerning controversies related to race, gender, and science.

ASSESSMENT: The student will be graded in two areas: (1) A Midterm Essay worth (40%), and (2) their Final Paper (60%). The Midterm paper is expected to be a 1,500-word essay exploring one themes from the class readings. The Final paper is expected to be a 3,000-word essay analyzing a theoretical problem from the course and its application to contemporary social problems dealing with racism, gender, and anti-Blackness. It is the expectation that the student will write about two different topics over the course of the class. The Mid-term is due Thursday 21st October, by 12pm. The Final paper is due Thursday December 9th by 12pm. For students considering a dissertation, your coursework dissertation decision is due Monday, October 18th, 2021 by 12pm. For those decide to take the dissertation option, your 5,000-word dissertation essay is due Tuesday December 14th, 2021 by 12 p.m.

REFERENCING: All papers written in this course should use Chicago 17th edition footnotes style. Students can find guidance on Chicago 17th style at:

SCHEDULED READINGS

WEEK 1: David Hume: “Negroes . . . naturally inferior to the whites” and Immanuel Kant: "This fellow was quite black ... a clear proof that what he said was stupid," in Race and the Enlightenment: A Reader, ed. Emmanuel Eze (Malden: Blackwell Publishers, 1997).


WEEK 2: Ariel, The Negro: What is His Ethnological Status (Cincinnati: Published for the Proprietor, 1867).


**WEEK 11:** Frederick Douglass, *Why is the Negro Lynched?* (Bridgewater: John Whitby & Sons, Limited, 1895).