

PHIL 117 Section: 01, "Philosophy of Race"

Spring 2024

Thursdays, 3:00-5:45 PM

Sweeney Hall 241

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Course Description

From the implementation of Executive Order 13769 (commonly referred to as “the Muslim ban”), to debates over immigration and President Trump’s proposed border wall, to issues of police violence towards racial minorities, problems of race and racism continue to persist. Even beyond the United States, issues of racism, islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia continue to plague the lives of racial minorities throughout the world. This course is dedicated to exploring these contemporary issues. More specifically, the course is divided into four sections. The first section explores various questions regarding race, racial identity and racism (e.g., what is race? what does it mean to be racist? can I change my race? etc.). The second section focuses on issues regarding intersectionality – we will consider the ways in which racial oppression interacts with other systems of oppression, such as sexism, classism and ableism. Afterwards, in the third section, we turn our attention to contemporary problems of race, such as the use of racial categories in ancestry and DNA testing, the racial politics of the prison industrial complex, and practices of racial stigmatization regarding immigration. Finally, in the fourth section, we examine various strategies for responding to issues of racial justice from both historical and contemporary civil rights activists and groups.