**PHIL 3150 – Race and Gender Issues**

Primary Instructor: Grecia Sánchez Blanco (She/Her/Hers) [grecia.sanchezblanco@wmich.edu](mailto:grecia.sanchezblanco@wmich.edu)

Office Hours: By Appointment

Instruction Method: Asynchronous

**Catalog Course Description**: This course explores a variety of philosophically interesting questions and debates related to race and gender.

**Readings**: All readings are available on Elearning.

**Attendance and Participation**: This class will be asynchronous. You’re free to complete the coursework on your own time just as long as you do it within the deadlines for each of your assignments. Keep in mind that the way I’ll give lectures this semester will be through videos of the week, which will be posted every Friday. Your participation during class will be graded based on the Quote Documents that you submit on a weekly basis during the semester.

**Quote Documents**: You will submit a document every Wednesday by 11:59 PM per each of the assigned readings (if you have two assigned readings that week, you need to submit two quote documents). In this document, you will need to put down at least one quote for every one to two pages of the assigned reading(s) along with your reason for selecting that quote—perhaps you selected the quote because you need help working through what it means, maybe you have some ideas about how that line can apply to other interesting concepts, or you could just want to share why you really like that particular passage. Remember to include the title/author of the work and to put the page number next to each quote. These are worth 5 points each.

**Midterm Quiz**: There will be a short midterm quiz half-way through the course (made visible to you during the week of August 1-5). You will find it on Elearning under Quizzes. This quiz will be worth 25 points.

**Outline for Final Paper**: You will need to submit an outline that tells me about the argument you’re planning to talk about in your final paper. You will be expected to have done previous research on the topic you want to explore (the outline includes an annotated bibliography of 3-5 sources related to your topic) and submit the assignment according to the instructions with which you will be provided. The outline is due on July 29th at 11:59 PM. This outline will be worth 25 points.

**Final Paper**: Your final paper should be 4 to 6 pages long. This paper is due on August 19th by 11:59 PM and is worth 25 points. It will include, at minimum, the following:

* A brief introduction that provides any necessary context for your argument and a modest but direct thesis statement.
* Several distinct sections that all work together to support your thesis statement.
* Several quotations from the recent work of multiple (at least three) scholars, whom you will be in conversation with throughout your paper.
* A counterargument one might pose to your thesis and your response to that counterargument.
* A satisfying conclusion that answers the question: Why does it matter that your thesis is right?

**Grading:**You will be graded as the following:

Quote Docs: 25 points (5 docs in total)

Midterm Quiz: 25 points

Outline: 25 points

Final Paper: 25 points

**Late Work Policy**: I believe in self-advocacy. If you are ill, have an emergency, or are otherwise unable to submit an assignment by its deadline, please let me know before that deadline. If something prevents you from talking to me beforehand, let me know as soon as you possibly can afterward, and we’ll see if we can work something out. I may be open to accepting late work at a 20% penalty—depending on the circumstances.

**Email Policy**: Please use your wmich.edu email address when emailing your instructors. I will respond to your emails as quickly as possible, but no response is guaranteed within 48-72 hours of receiving the email. You are responsible for regularly checking for emails from instructors, which may be time sensitive.

**Accommodations**: Any student with a documented disability who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact me and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester. The two disability service offices on campus are Disabled Student Resources and Services ((269) 387-2116) and the Office of Services for Students with Learning Disabilities ((269) 387-4411). If you do not identify with the term “disability” but believe some accommodations may be helpful for you, I recommend talking to these offices and seeing what they can do. They offer a wide range of services and help a wide range of students.

**Writing Center**: The Western Michigan University Writing Center is a free consultation service for all WMU students, where experienced writing consultants help writers of all levels and all abilities. The center helps writers determine strategies for effective communication and make academically responsible choices at any stage in the writing process and on assignments in any field of study. The Writing Center is at 1343 Ellsworth Hall. To learn more information, and to make an appointment, visit wmich.edu/writingcenter.

**Academic Conduct and Honesty**: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the university’s policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment. I will determine appropriate grade penalties for plagiarism on a case-by-case basis.

**Technical Support**: For technical support, contact the Help Desk at (269) 387-HELP.

**Sexual Harassment, Assault, Contact, Exploitation**: Federal law and WMU policy prohibit sexual harassment, sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual exploitation, harm to others, stalking, intimate partner violence, and retaliation. By law, when campus officials are aware that such behavior occurs, they must investigate and take action to protect students’ safety. Per WMU’s new sexual assault policy, most WMU employees are not confidential resources, which means that information you reveal may be shared with campus investigators, whether you want this to happen or not. Many survivors prefer to seek confidential support and services. The YWCA crisis line, available 24 hours, is (269) 385- 3587. If you’ve experienced sexual or gender-based violence, you may contact the Office of Institutional Equity directly at (269) 387-6316 or ask someone you trust to report on your behalf.

**Disclaimer**: I reserve the right to make any changes to the course content, schedule, and grading procedure. I reserve the right to establish fair procedures for grading for students in exceptional cases and to determine what counts as an “exceptional” case. All modifications to this syllabus will be in accordance with WMU policies and will be posted and distributed in a timely manner.

**Schedule**

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| **Intro Week (July 4-8)** | **Watch:** Video of the week (Starting vocabulary/definitions to use for this class).  **Read**: Syllabus and Appiah, The Lies That Bind: Rethinking Identity (Precis) |
| **Week 2 (July 11-15)** | **Watch:** Video of the week  **Read:** Mills (Claudia), “‘Passing’: The Ethics of Pretending to Be What You Are Not” and Mills (Charles), “Overview,” in The Racial Contract  **Submit: Quote Doc #1** |
| **Week 3 (July 18-22)** | **Watch:** Video of the week **Read:** Coates, “The Case for Reparations”[**https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/#i-so-thats-just-one-of-my-losses**](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/#i-so-thats-just-one-of-my-losses)  andDavis, “Prison Reform or Prison Abolition?” in Are Prisons Obsolete? (Introduction only)  **Submit: Quote Doc #2** |
| **Week 4 (July 25-29)** | **Watch:** Video of the week  **Read:** Shapshay, “What Is the Monumental?” and Tuvel, “In Defense of Transracialism”  **Submit: Outline for Final Paper on July 29th at 11:59 PM and Quote Doc #3** |
| **Week 5 (August 1-5)** | **Watch:** Video of the week  **Read:** Bettcher, “Trans Identities and First-Person Authority” and Stock, Material Girls: Why Reality Matters for Feminism (Intro and Ch. 1)  **Do: Midterm Quiz on Elearning**  **Submit: Quote Doc #4** |
| **Week 6 (August 8-12)** | **Watch:** Video of the week  **Read**: Young, “Throwing Like a Girl” and Srinivasan, “The Right to Sex,” in The Right to Sex (Preface)  **Submit**: **Quote Doc #5** |
| **Final Week (August 15-19)** | **No video and no readings for this week. Work on your Final Paper only.** |