

PHIL 3308
Race, Justice, and Equality
Spring 2021
Professor Serene Khader



This course will introduce students to some of the tools philosophers have developed for explaining the wrongs of racism and our responsibilities for doing something about it. We will begin with brief discussions of the history of race in the United States and an analysis of the philosophical debate over whether, and in what sense, race is real. We will then spend the majority of the semester discussing moral and political questions about race and racism, such as: Do victims of racial injustice have the same political responsibilities as other citizens? What kinds of immigration policies are compatible with justice? How should we understand reproductive justice under conditions of racism? Does the U.S. government owe reparations to descendants of slaves? Is affirmative action justified?

Some of the authors we will read include Shatema Threadcraft, Michelle Alexander, Elizabeth Anderson, Tommie Shelby, and Ta-Nehisi Coates.