



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Ancient Identities: Race and Ethnicity in the Mediterranean 1600 BCE - 500 CE

Course Instructor Information

Instructor: Kelly P. Dugan

Email: kpugan@uga.edu

Office: 213 Park Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00-1:00 pm or by appt.

Course Meeting Information

Meetings: 1:15-4:45 TTh

Location: 115 Park Hall

Required Texts

*** if you cannot afford to purchase a text at any time please do not hesitate to let me know and we will find a solution together

- *Race: Antiquity & Its Legacy* (McCoskey, 2012)
- *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity* (Isaac, 2004)
- *Race and Ethnicity in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Kennedy et al., 2013)
- *Toni Morrison and the Classical Tradition: Transforming American Culture* (Roynon, 2013)
- Various articles and excerpts of texts provided by instructor including "What We Mean When We Say Race is a Social Construct" (Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2013) and *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* (Kendi, 2016)

Course Description

This is an introductory course on the history of race and ethnicity in the ancient world and its influence on modern American society. We will take a language awareness approach that emphasizes the power of words and how history is framed. Students will learn about the social construction of race and ethnicity beginning from the perspective of the ancient Mediterranean up to modern classifications and issues today. Along the way, this class will explore how and why some communities have used Greek and Roman literature and culture to promote racism and discrimination. In turn, students will also learn how and why others throughout history have used Classics to fight against this same hatred and empower themselves and others. The course is split into three sections: 1) primary sources on race and ethnicity in the ancient world 2) Classics and the continued social construction of race and ethnicity up to the modern era and 3) Classics and the representations of race and ethnicity today.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be more knowledgeable about the ancient Mediterranean concepts of race and its relationship to the modern world.

- Material goals = Understanding what primary and secondary resources we have available today on the social construction of race and racism (all materials will be read in translation)
- Philosophical goals = Learning about the role of Classics in the construction and ongoing development of race and racism
- Cultural goals = Exploring race and racism in ancient and modern societies - what are the functions? how do they operate? who has agency?
- Cross-cultural goals = Comprehension of the complex and shifting relationship between the ancient and modern views on race and racism

Assignments

There will be readings assigned for every class meeting averaging about 50 pages each class (about 100 pages a week to read). Readings must be done before the start of class. There will also be two 2-page reflection assignments. At the end of the semester, there will be one 3-5 page final paper.

Grading/Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on attendance & participation, a short quiz each class (don't fret, they're easy as long as you come to class!), two 2-page reflective essays, and the final paper. Quizzes may be given at the beginning, middle, or end of any class. Extra credit is available as occasional bonus questions on the daily quizzes. No make-up quizzes allowed except in the case of excused absences.

Attendance and Participation (30%)

Daily Quizzes (30%)

Reflective Papers (30%)

Final Paper (10%)

FINAL GRADES

A = 94-100%

A- = 90-93%

B+ = 87-89%

B = 84-86%

B- = 80-83%

C+ = 77-79%

C = 74-76%

C- = 70-73%

D = 65-69%

F = 64% and below

Course Policies

Students are expected to be prepared for class, take quizzes, and turn in assignments on time. Attendance is mandatory (see Grading/Evaluation section). Please do not come to class late – you will not receive full attendance/participation points which accounts for 40% of your grade. If there is a valid reason for being late, tell me after or outside of class. Students are expected to follow UGA's Code of Conduct (<https://conduct.uga.edu>). Disruptive behavior in the class will result in the reduction of your attendance & participation grade. Further action will be taken if needed. The use of technology will be restricted to course related activities. You are asked to refrain from excessive cellphone use and computers unless called on to do so. Recording the class without my permission is strictly prohibited.

Participation Policy

All students are allowed 2 unexcused absences. Speak to me as soon as possible if you have an emergency and must miss class. In the event that the university cancels classes, such as for severe weather, students are expected to continue with readings as originally scheduled.

Content Warning

Greek and Roman literature often features difficult and sensitive topics including, but not limited to, PTSD, violence, war, rape, sex, and nudity. These topics are unavoidable to a certain extent. This content warning is in place to make you aware that these subjects will be addressed in some readings and class discussion. The course will also feature paintings, sculptures, and other artistic representations of classical themes that may include nudity and violence in order to provide more cultural and historical context and information. Be prepared for responsible academic treatment of these issues. When you participate in these discussions, you must do so with respect (see Code of Conduct). You will not be called on to involuntarily discuss any of these issues aloud in class. You are welcome to simply listen and learn. If at any time you feel you cannot attend class when these topics are discussed, please let me know so we can discuss alternative options.

Disability Statement

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you need formal, disability-related accommodations, it is very important that you be registered with the Disability Resource Center (Voice: 706-542-8719 or TTY: 706-542-8778) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations. You are not required to tell me details about your disability.

Academic Honesty Policy

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation.

Counseling and Support

UGA offers mental health support through CAPS (Counseling and Psychiatric Services) (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/caps/welcome>) including individual and group therapy. There is also a crisis hotline (regular hours: 706-542-2273 and after hours: 706-542-2200). The College of Education also offers help (<https://coe.uga.edu/directory/counseling-and-personal-evaluation>). There are also resources in the community of Athens including The Cottage (sexual assault and children's advocacy - <http://www.northgeorgiacottage.org/>) and Nuçi's Space (suicide prevention with focus on musicians - <https://www.nuci.org/about-us-2/>). I am happy to provide more resources on and off-campus as well so please do not hesitate to ask.

Division of Academic Enhancement Resources

From peer tutoring through the Academic Resource Center to Academic Coaching to Student Success Workshops and more, the Division is committed to the success of all students at the University of Georgia. For more on these and other resources, visit <https://dae.uga.edu>.

Transfer Student Resources

There are events throughout the school year with the Transfer Student Experience initiative, peer mentors, and a Facebook page for transfer students to connect with resources and support one another. There is also a course offered through the Division of Academic Enhancement titled UNIV 2302 Success for Transfer Students offered every Fall and Spring semester.

First-Generation Student Resources

There is a course offered through the Division of Academic Enhancement titled UNIV 2900 Academic Success for Transfer Students offered every Fall and Spring semester. There are lots of resources for first-generation students including through the advising website: <https://advising.uga.edu/student-resources/first-generation-students/>.

Course Outline:

The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning. All readings are required unless otherwise noted. Students should read/know required material by the date listed, at which time we will discuss or use the scheduled readings in class. Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. An asterisk indicates in-class readings.