

SYLLABUS Preview

Course Information

Number: PHIL 3510-301

Title: Topics in Philosophy of Race (Affirmative Action)

Meeting Times: TR 1:45-3:14pm

Classroom: TBA

Course Website: <http://canvas.upenn.edu>

Professor's Information

Name: Quayshawn Spencer

Title: Robert S. Blank Presidential Associate Professor of Philosophy

Office: Cohen Hall, room 464

Office Phone: (215) 573-5120

Office Hours: TR 10:30am-12pm and by appointment

Email: qspencer@upenn.edu

Course Description

What is affirmative action? Is affirmative action with preferential treatment a form of racism? Can preferential treatment in admissions or hiring be morally justified? How? Reparations? Distributive justice? Social utility? Diversity? This course is an attempt to answer these questions and more from the viewpoint of contemporary philosophy of race and political philosophy. We will start the course by looking at key legal cases in affirmative action. After this, we will turn to philosophical attempts to morally justify various forms of affirmative action with preferential treatment.

Required Texts

1. Cahn, Steven M. (2002). *The Affirmative Action Debate: Second Edition*. New York: Routledge.
2. All other readings will be posted on our course website.