

## CLA 6930 RACISM IN ANTIQUITY

on-campus class number: 23394

distance class number: 23395

Fall 2019

Tuesdays 8:00-10:00 p.m. EST in AdobeConnect

URL: <http://uf-classics-dl.adobeconnect.com/racism>

Canvas site: once I have set up the Canvas site and you've registered for the class, you will see CLA 6930 listed when you log into E-learning (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu>)

Instructor: Dr. Velvet L. Yates

Email: [vyates@ufl.edu](mailto:vyates@ufl.edu) (or Canvas mail)

Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:30 or by appointment, in 142 Dauer Hall

Office Phone: (352) 273-3703 (Classics Dept.: 352-392-2075)

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

To examine whether racism existed in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations, and if so, in what form. To examine the co-opting of the legacy of Classics in modern racist thought.

### TEXTBOOKS

#### REQUIRED:

- *The Invention of Racism in Classical Antiquity*, by Benjamin Isaac, 2006, Princeton University Press (paperback).
- *Race: Antiquity and Its Legacy*, by Denise McCoskey, 2012, Oxford University Press (paperback).
- PDF's of other readings will be provided.

### TECHNOLOGY

a headset microphone is required for this class. Students using their device's built-in microphone may cause feedback and distortion for others in the class.

Technical difficulties: Make sure your browser has the latest version of Adobe Flash for using AdobeConnect (AC), and make sure you have a good internet connection. For in-class problems with sound, running the 'Audio Setup Wizard' in AC usually works. For issues with Canvas, see the E-Learning help page (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>) or contact the UF Help Desk ([helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)).

### POLICIES

The class time is short, so please give it your full attention for the full period, without wandering off or being distracted. Please let me know ahead of time if you have a scheduling conflict for a particular class, and we can accommodate you (and not deduct from the attendance grade). If you do need to leave the class for a short period to

attend to something (like a small child), that's fine - just click the 'Away' button in AdobeConnect so we know you've 'left the room,' and click it again when you return.

**GRADING** See <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx> on grading policies.

- 30% Attendance and participation (incl. assigned reading discussion boards)
- 15% Translation presentation: (passage(s) from Latin or Greek author on 'races', 'tribes,' etc., with instructor approval; claim on 'translation presentation' discussion board to avoid duplication. Passage(s) length: about 1 OCT page, minimum; OK to cobble together several short passages.  
DUE TUES. Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m. EST (post report on Canvas discussion board, and give oral presentation in class)
- 15% Article Report (400-800 word report, plus class presentation  
DUE TUES. Oct. 22, 8:00 p.m. EST (post report on Canvas discussion board, and give oral presentation in class)
- 5% Thesis statement (1-2 sentences) and outline of research paper or project  
DUE FRI., Nov. 1, 11:59 P.M. EST (post in Canvas assignment)
- 15% Rough draft of paper and writing meeting [at least 2000 words, or c. 6-7 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, 1.5 spacing]  
DUE FRI., 11/22, 11:59 P.M. EST (post in Canvas assignment)  
Individual writing meetings on TUES., 12/3, 8:00 p.m. EST
- 20% Final paper [c. 3000 words, or c. 9.5 pages of Times New Roman size 12 font, 1.5 spacing]  
DUE TUES., 12/10, 11:59 P.M. EST (post in Canvas assignment)

#### Grading Scale

A	100-93
A-	90-92
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	80-82
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	70-72
D	69-67
D	66-63
D-	60-62
E	59 or lower

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

n.b.: The topics for each week are based largely on Isaac's organization, so the McCoskey readings do not map perfectly onto each topic.

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS

T 8/20

Reading assignment for next week: Isaac Part I; McCoskey Introduction; readings on Darwinian racism

WEEK 2: Defining racism and proto-racism

T 8/27

Reading assignment for next week: Snowden readings

WEEK 3: The denial of racism in antiquity: Snowden

T 9/3

Reading assignment for next week: McCoskey Ch. IV; Bernal, Lefkowitz readings

WEEK 4: The Greeks stole everything from Africa: Bernal, Lefkowitz

T 9/10

Reading assignment for next week: selections from Eaverly, *Tan Men, Pale Women*; Yates articles, "Biology is Destiny"; "Men's Cosmetics in Plato and Xenophon"

WEEK 5: Tan Men, Pale Women

T 9/17

Reading assignment for next two weeks: Isaac, Ch. 4; selections from Hall, *Inventing the Barbarian*; duBois, *Centaurs and Amazons*

WEEK 6: Translation presentations

T 9/24

WEEK 7: Greece and Persia

T 10/1

Reading assignment for next week: Aristotle selections; Yates article, "Politics of the Deformed: Women, Slaves, and Democracy in Aristotle"

WEEK 8: Aristotle's theory of natural slavery

T 10/8

Reading assignment for Week 11: Isaac, Ch. 9; McCoskey, Ch. 3; Cicero/Juvenal/ et al. selections (student nominations encouraged!)

[WEEK 9: makeup class, if needed

T 10/15

Oct. 18-19: 'Public Classics' workshop at Northwestern]

WEEK 10: Article reports

T 10/22

WEEK 11: The Romans on the Greeks (and the East)

[due Friday: statement (1 sentence) and outline of research paper or project]

T 10/29

Reading assignment for next week: Isaac, Ch. 11, 12; McCoskey Ch. 1 (especially the last 4 sections); selections from Tacitus, Pliny the Younger

WEEK 12: The Romans on the Germans and Gauls

T 11/5

Reading assignment for next week: Isaac, Ch. 13; McCoskey, Ch. 2; selections from Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, et al. (student nominations encouraged! Mary Beard's *Religions of Rome* Vol. 2 is a good source to check out)

WEEK 13: The Romans on the Jews and Christians (is it racism?); Egyptians

T 11/12

Reading assignment for next week: Yates' *Eidolon* piece on Watson and Aristotle; Sarah Bond controversy; student-suggested pieces

WEEK 14: White supremacists' (mis)use of the Classics

T 11/19

[due FRIDAY: rough draft of research paper or status report on project]

Reading assignment for next week:

WEEK 15:

T 11/26 **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING**

WEEK 16: Draft meetings

T 12/3 Individual meetings to go over rough draft of paper or project

**FINAL PAPER OR PROJECT DUE TUES., 12/10 11:59 P.M. EST**