

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

The Racial Demarcation of Spaces & Individuals

Instructions

When doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

Reading

Mills, C. W. (1997). [Chapter 2, first two sections]. In *The racial contract* (pp. 41–62). Cornell University Press.

Questions

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. In the first section of chapter 2, Charles Mills argues that “the Racial Contract norms (and races) space” (1997, p. 41).
What does Mills mean by that? That is, what does he mean by the “norming of space” (1997, p. 41) and what and what does he mean by the “racing of space” (1997, p. 41)?
2. According to Mills, what are the epistemological (pages 44 to 45) and moral (pages 46 to 50) dimensions to the norming and racing of space?
3. In the second section of chapter 2, Charles Mills argues that “the Racial Contract norms (and races) the individual” (1997, p. 41).
What does Mills mean by that? That is, what does he seem to mean by the “norming” of individuals and the “racing” of individuals?
4. According to Mills, what are the moral/legal (pages 55 to 58), cognitive (pages 59 to 60), and aesthetic (pages 61 to 62) dimensions to the norming and racing of individuals?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.