

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Social Identities: Race*

*This session takes up key topics within contemporary philosophy of race and critical race theory. We examine different positions on the concept of race, led by the question of whether, and in what sense, race is “real.” We also survey and discuss varieties of racism, from scientific theories of biological difference (“biological racism”) to cultural and neo-racism, asking about the implications of these conceptions and varieties of racism for strategies to combat this widespread form of social discrimination.*

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

*Social Identities: Culture*

*What is “culture”? What are its constitutive features? Is it a salient feature of a person's identity, and should it be recognized and respected in multicultural societies? What are the limits of such recognition? We take up these questions, with a focus on critiques of cultural identity and multiculturalism that target cultural essentialism. We also explore the topic of cultural relativism, in light of the historical development of this idea within the discipline of anthropology as well as debates surrounding it within philosophy.*

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*Social Identities: Religion*

*Many sociologists and scholars within the field of religious studies have argued that the very idea of “religion” is a misfit for non-Western societies, and particularly those shaped by non-Abrahamic traditions. In this regard and with an eye to political concerns, Tariq Modood and Anthony Appiah point out that “religion” is, in Asian and African societies, a matter of identity rather than belief, and is therefore akin to culture and race as features of identity decided by birth. Modood notes, in addition, that in countries like the U.K., religious and racial discrimination – against Muslims, for instance – are intertwined. In this third and final session, we interrogate the concept of religion, exploring linkages to culture and race, and address normative concerns about the place of religion within politics.*