

Winter, 2023
Philosophy 427
Topics in Critical Philosophy of Race
Sherbrooke 688, rm 365
Tues/Thus 8:35-9:55
Prof. Eric Lewis

Topic for Winter, 2023: **The Philosophy of bell hooks**

Prerequisite: PHIL 327 or permission of instructor (really!)

Prior to her untimely death in late 2021 bell hooks produced, over 40 years, a large number of publications with major impacts in feminist theory, critical race theory, aesthetics, and the philosophy of love and care (among other disciplines). For all her influence she has been relatively ignored by main-stream philosophy. For example, as amazing as it is true, there is not a single work by bell hooks found in the Philosopher's Index, although many works on or about bell hooks are found there. In this course we will read a selection of hooks' writings, drawing from her work on (black) feminism, critical race theory, aesthetics, and the philosophy of love and care. One aim will be to reveal how these categorizations themselves occlude the relevance of each of these topics to each other in hooks' writings, and how her philosophy of love can be seen as a unifying theory bringing together her work in feminist theory, critical race theory and aesthetics. The transformative work she wishes her writings to help bring about requires the sort of interpersonal engagements that her philosophy of love both argues for and describes.

The precise works we will read will be partially determined by class interest, but are likely to include all or parts of:

Ain't I a Woman?

Talking Back

Black Looks

Art on My Mind

All About Love

Writing Beyond Race

Precise modalities concerning required work will be determined in conversation with enrolled students during the first week of class. It is likely to include collaborative work, and being responsible for presenting/introducing some of the readings to the class. Regular attendance will be required.