

The Political Culture of Race and Racism

Short Essay

Due date: November 10

Length: 1500 words

Choose one of the following topics

1. "The history of sports in North America is a history of racism and racist imagery." Discuss. (Possible themes: The US national anthem protests launched by Colin Kaepernick; Hip hop and the NBA; Muhammad Ali and professional boxing; Serena Williams and tennis; indigenous mascots and sports teams; Jackie Robinson and integration in baseball. Useful sources: Dave Zirin, *Welcome to the Terrordome*, *A People's History of Sports in the United States*, *What's My Name Fool?*, and his blogs at <http://www.edgeofsports.com/bio.html>; Alan Tomlinson, ed., *The Sports Studies Reader*, Section 6; Richard King, ed., *The Native American Mascot Controversy*) NOTE: online articles or videos from reputable voices like these are acceptable sources.
2. "The US 'war on drugs' is really a war on people of colour." Discuss. (Possible themes: the prison-industrial complex. Useful sources: Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*; Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Golden Gulag*; Angela Y. Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?*; Christian Parenti, *Lockdown America*.) NOTE: online articles or videos from reputable voices like these are acceptable sources.
3. How is it possible to have racism in a legally colour-blind society? What forms does such racism take? Be sure to do the reading from Etienne Balibar for this assignment.