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PHI 230: American Philosophy OER Curation

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PHI 230: American Philosophy OER Curation

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Overview

Scope Notes

The requestor is looking to use OER to supplement current course materials, but would not mind having a textbook organized in a way that corresponds to the current order of class reading and text discussion. Requestor likes how McKenna and Pratt's "American Philosophy" contextualizes the primary readings, and that the "American Philosophies: An Anthology" gives flexibility in how texts are organized according to topic but is concerned about the cost of the anthology. The search should primarily focus on finding quality replacements for the readings assigned from "American Philosophies: An Anthology."

Current primary textbooks and materials

Erin McKenna and Scott L. Pratt, *American Philosophy: From Wounded Knee to the Present* (London: Bloomsbury, 2015). ISBN: 978-1441175182 (\$40 paperback)

American Philosophies: An Anthology, edited by Leonard Harris, Scott L. Pratt, and Anne S. Waters (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002). ISBN: 978-0631210023 (\$70 - \$192)

Richard Rorty, *Achieving Our Country: Leftist Thought in Twentieth-Century America* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998). ISBN: 9780674003125 (\$21.50)



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Search Notes

The search for corresponding OER relevant to this course included OER Commons, Open Textbook Library, Rebus Community, OpenStax, Merlot, BC Campus

Although there is not an equivalent resource to replace the primary American Philosophy text, the primary texts included or discussed in Part I (1948-1918) and Part II (1918-1939) are generally out of copyright, and well as many in the “American Philosophies: An Anthology.” Due to their public domain status, they can be used as an open educational resources for the course, and some have been included in the additional primary readings section. These public domain resources make an excellent opportunity for publishing an “American Philosophy” public domain reader tailored for this course and useful for others teaching the subject.

Gap Analysis

Many primary readings are in the public domain, but there was not a corresponding anthology or essay collection on American Philosophy found. There is a gap in existing open educational resources. If there is interest, creating a compilation of public domain resources, or publishing a new collection that is openly licensed would be beneficial to open education in the field.

Promising OER Options

An Introduction to Philosophy

- Russ W. Payne, An Introduction to Philosophy (BCcampus, 2015).
- [Open University of Minnesota](#)
- Ebook
- CC BY-NC
- Text presents philosophy to newcomers as a living discipline with historical roots. Early chapters are historically organized, with the author’s goal to trace a developmental progression of thought that introduces basic philosophical methods and frames issues that remain relevant today. The later chapters are topically organized. This resource could potentially be useful to pull relevant portions for supplemental materials, or to remix into a new course specific OER textbook.

Stretch Resource Options

Sapientia: open readings in philosophy

- Henry Imler, Sapientia: open readings in philosophy (Eidenai OER, 2019).
- [Pressbooks](#)
- Ebook

- CC BY-NC
- Collected readings from philosophy that are out of copyright or openly licensed. The later readings may be relevant to the course and be used as supplemental materials.

Introduction to Philosophy

- Eran Asoulin; Paul Richard Blum; Tony Cheng; Daniel Haas; Jason Newman; Henry Shevlin; Elly Vintiadis; Heather Salazar, and Christina Hendricks, Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind (Rebus Community, 2019).
- [OER Commons](#)
- Ebook, Book
- CC-BY
- Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of Mind surveys the central themes in philosophy of mind and places them in a historical and contemporary context intended to engage first-time readers in the field. This OER text is recommended for use to pull out potentially relevant supplemental materials.

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

- Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (OpenStax, 2020).
- [OpenStax](#)
- eBook, Book
- CC BY
- This open textbook is designed to align with the guidelines for the A.P. US History course and not philosophy. However, some of the readings may potentially be useful and relevant to the American Philosophy course. Since the textbook is licensed CC BY, individual resources could be taken out and used in a “re-mixed” course packet - or simply linked directly to a chapter from the existing Blackboard course.

Currently Assigned Primary Readings

These readings are listed in the course’s current syllabus from the “American Philosophies: An Anthology.” They are largely in the public domain, but without an existing electronic equivalent shared in the course Blackboard. We can explore creating a “course reader” anthology of these public domain texts for greater ease of teaching and convenience for students, but currently many are publicly available and could be additionally linked in the course Blackboard.

The Federalist Papers

- Class reading citation: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers, in American Philosophies, pp. 270–277, esp. Jay’s Federalist No. 2.
- Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, The Federalist Papers (1788).
- [Yale Law School](#): [No. 2 Jay](#), [No. 10 Madison](#), [No. 51, Madison](#)
- Electronic text

- Public Domain
- These readings are out of copyright. This source is a university website and may be used as a link, but it would also be recommended to use the text to create a more permanent reading resource for the course.

Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World

- Class reading citation: David Walker, Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World, 1829, in American Philosophies, pp. 298–312.
- David Walker, "Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World," (1829).
- [University of North Carolina](#)
- Electronic text
- Public domain
- This reading is from 1829/1830 and is in the public domain. This one is readily available from another university maintained website. However, since it is in the public domain, it would be an excellent opportunity to publish a better formatted version along with other readings for this course.

John Wannaucon Quinney's "Fourth of July Address"

- Class reading citation: John Wannaucon Quinney, "Fourth of July Address at Reidsville, New York, 1854," in American Philosophies, pp. 295–297.
- John Wannaucon Quinney, "Fourth of July Address at Reidsville, New York" (1854).
- [White Ravens Archive Project](#)
- Electronic text
- Public domain
- The source where an electronic, publicly accessible version of the text was found is an atypical one to be used. It appears to be an individual historian's archive blog. The text speech appears, at quick comparison, to be an accurate transcription. It should be verified, but since the original is public domain this transcription could be used to create a more reliable, reader friendly PDF of the "Fourth of July Address."

Anna J. Cooper "Woman versus the Indian"

- Class reading citation: Anna J. Cooper, "Woman versus the Indian," in American Philosophies, pp. 347–358.
- Anna Julia Cooper, "Woman vs the Indian." A Voice from the South. (The Aldine Printing House, 1892).
- [University of North Carolina](#)
- Electronic text
- Public Domain
- This reading is from 1892 and is in the public domain. This one is readily available from another university maintained website. However, since it is in the public domain, it would

be an excellent opportunity to publish a better formatted version along with other readings for this course.

Thoreau "Civil Disobedience"

- Class reading citation: Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience," in American Philosophies, 325–336.
- Henry David Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience" (1849).
- [The University of Virginia](#)
- Electronic text
- Public Domain
- Thoreau readings will be out of copyright and in the public domain. This one is readily available from another university maintained website. However, since it is in the public domain, it would be an excellent opportunity to publish a better formatted version along with other readings for this course.

W. E. B. Du Bois "Race"

- Class reading citation: W. E. B. Du Bois, "Race," in American Philosophies, pp. 134– 149
 - "Does race antipathy service any good purpose" is taken from Boston Globe, July 14, 1914
 - [Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection](#)
 - Does race antiaphy service any good purpose (Denver Star, September 5 1914).
 - Electronic scan of original newspaper, transcription provided.
 - Public Domain
 - Although this is not a ready made resource, the original article and transcription could be used to create a more accessible and reliable public domain copy for teaching.
 - "The Concept of Race" is taken from Du Bois' Dusk of Dawn (1940)
 - The original 1940 chapter/essay is still under copyright.
 - Unfortunately, a public domain copy is unlikely for this case. However, there are other "free" access or openly licensed Du Bois resources if a substitute will be satisfactory for the teaching. Initial free resources to check would be at webdubois.org. Additionally, **the library does subscribe to an e-version of Du Bois' Dusk of Dawn**. Students would be able to freely access this version, but the instructor should confirm with the Library if there is a limit to how many can access the book at one time otherwise not all students may be able to access the reading when they need to.
- The class reading is made up of two original texts under different access and copyright parameters at present. This could be an opportunity to work with the publishing side of

the Libraries to create more readable and accessible versions of the out of copyright reading for both this course and others.

Alaine Locke “Cultural Pluralism”

- Course reading citation: Alain Locke, “Cultural Pluralism,” in *American Philosophies*, pp. 433–445.
- Leonard Harris, *The Philosophy of Alain Locke* (1989).
- This reading within the anthology appears to be about the philosophy of Alain Locke “Pluralism and Intellectual Democracy” rather than the original writing of Alaine Locke, which depending upon publication could be in the public domain. An OER is likely not possible in this situation for a direct replacement, but perhaps a “free” access reading through the Libraries’ journals is a potential workaround in order to complete the freely accessible readings and cover the currently used material from the anthology textbook.