

Name.....

(Please use this question sheet as your cover page.)

Dr. Tsenay Serequeberhan

Spring 2018

Ethics, Values, and the Black Experience

(Ethics and Values, PHIL 220, sec: 1 & 3)

Final Assignment for *Graduating Seniors*

Given April 20, due April 30, 2018

(Handed to me in class or left in my box located in the Philosophy Department Office)

(NB: late work will *not* be accepted)

In "The Ethics of Living Jim Crow" Richard Wright narrates some of the most horrific racial incidents of his childhood and early manhood. In the first chapter of *Nobody Knows My Name* titled "The Discovery of What It Means to Be an American" James Baldwin writes: "I left America because... I wanted to prevent myself from becoming *merely* a Negro" (p. 3). In the introduction to the same book he states: "In America, the color of my skin had stood between myself and me; in Europe, that barrier was down. Nothing is more desirable than to be released from an affliction, but nothing is more frightening than to be divested of a crutch" (pp. xi – xii).

What are these two authors telling us? Is it related, in any way, to "bad faith"? How would you say what they are telling us is related, if it is, to Sartre's distinction between *facticity* and *transcendence*? Is any of what they say related to Nietzsche's idea of "Giving style to one's character" and what he refers to as "The great health"?

Respond to the above in a *three to five-page* paper. Organize your thoughts, edit your writing, and develop your paper by engaging what the question is concerned with. Your paper should be presented in a clear and coherent manner and must be typed, double spaced, and in 12 pitch.

(NB: Plagiarism is intellectual theft and it will not be tolerated.)