

# Frantz Fanon's "Black Skin, White Masks"

Spring 2026 Seminar (HUMC 394-02)



**Spring 2026 Seminar: HUMC 394-02**

Dates: Thursday at 2-3:50 p.m.  
February 12 through March 26

Instructor: Mike Kelly, PhD  
Department of Philosophy  
michaelkelly@sandiego.edu

Details: One (1) unit of credit  
Pass/fail only  
No prerequisites required.  
Open to all upper division students.



Published when he was only 27 years old, Frantz Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952) explores the dehumanizing effects of colonialism and racism on black persons. His text – rightly considered a watershed for postcolonial and antiracist thought – is as erudite as it is revolutionary. Gripping and accessible in its auto-ethnographical elements, Fanon's critical analyses nevertheless draw from his sweeping integration of myriad, complex subfields in the humanities and social scientific disciplines.

The aim of this seminar is to help students more fully grasp the revolutionary character of the text by familiarizing them with the intellectual methods driving Fanon's analyses. The means will be a close reading of *Black Skin, White Masks* with special attention to where and how Fanon draws upon the following disciplines: semiotics (or structural linguistics), Hegel's master/slave dialectic, Nietzsche's genealogical philosophy, psychoanalysis, existentialism and phenomenology.