

Daniel Immerman  
Moral Problems

### Reading Questions for March 20

There are two readings for today. One is a summary from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and is called “Racing Profiling: Definition.” The other is from the New York Times and is called “The Ferguson Police Department: The Justice Department Report, Annotated.” There is also an option one, namely an episode of a philosophy radio program. The program is called “Philosophy Talk” and the episode is called “Racial Profiling and Implicit Bias.” While I think this episode is worth listening to, especially if you don’t know much about implicit bias, it’s fairly long, so I’m not going to make it a requirement.

#### *Background:*

While the article from Monday and Wednesday talked about racial profiling in theory, it’s also important to think about it in practice. So that we can do so, I’ve linked to two articles describing racial profiling as it is practiced in the United States. One, from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) describes racial profiling across the United States. (It should be noted that the ACLU is strongly against racial profiling, as can be seen e.g. from <https://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/racial-profiling> .) The other, from the New York Times, describes a Justice Department report on Ferguson. While the whole article is worth reading, for our purposes you only need to check out the section titled “Racially Discriminatory Policing Was the Norm.”

#### *Questions:*

1. For today, I would like you to come up with a discussion question regarding the morality of racial profiling as it is currently practiced in the United States and then to come up with an answer to your own question. (We’ll be discussing the questions in class, so it will be boring if everyone asks the same question.)