PHHS 2001 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY
Anselm Ramelow, O.P.
Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology
Spring 2014

time:    M 9:40am-12:30pm
place:   DSPT #1
3 units

Office Hours:
M 1:15pm-3:15pm or by appointment
I can be reached under (415) 567 7824 (St. Dominic’s parish, ask for Fr. Anselm) or aramelow@dspt.edu; I am also available after class.

Description
Lecture on late 19th and 20th century philosophy: beginning with Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, we will treat pragmatism, phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, analytic philosophy, structuralism, postmodernism, deconstruction and leading criticism of the same. The lecture is designed to give an overview and is open to questions and discussion.
As an outcome, the student will have gained an understanding of the development of philosophical thought in this epoch, and will be able to relate various thinkers and their positions on relevant topics through research and writing.

The student will demonstrate this knowledge through
   a)  a mid-term (take home) and final exam (take home, non-comprehensive)
       = 40% of grade
   b)  a 15pp research paper (see below)
       = 50% of grade.\(^1\)
       This includes an evaluation of the DSPT Institutional Goals
       A.1 Integrative Thinking (as explained below) and
       A.2 Intellectual Humility:
           Academic work includes listening to the scholarly community; this is
demonstrated in your research and use of your sources (books and
journal articles) in the research paper.
   c)  in addition, 10% of the grade will include an evaluation of the student in the following
       areas:
           a. collaborative learning (Institutional Goal B.3)\(^2\); based on
              i.  class participation
              ii. the paper proposal you are submitting and integration of feedback
           b. service dimension (Institutional Goal B.2), i.e. your contribution to the common
good of the class:
              i.  class preparation
              ii. oral participation as appropriate
           c. self-direction (Institutional Goal A.3):
              finding your own paper topic will demonstrate this ability

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\(^1\) Please refer to the attached paper guidelines and the Research Readiness Paper Review Form.
\(^2\) For some rubrics of evaluation for the Institutional Goals, please refer to the "Rubrics for Life-long Learning Skills" and "Rubrics for Effective Leadership" on the DSPT website.
The research paper ideally will compare a philosopher to other thinkers on a particular topic. It will show the student’s ability to do research.

For this purpose, I ask you to give me a paper proposal by M 3/31. This proposal should consist of a short paragraph, describing the topic of your choice, and a bibliography. The bibliography is most important. Please make your bibliography as specific as possible. I would like to see at least three pertinent journal articles. Do not quote general handbooks or the textbooks of the class. Do use the “philosopher’s index” that is available on the GTU library website. It will save you much time and give you valuable information. In many cases, however, it will only be a starting point. It is not required – but a good practice – to write an outline as well.

For further Guidelines see at the end of this syllabus.

The deadline for the paper proposal is M 3/31.

the paper is due on M 5/12!

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance and participation will impact the grade. Missed deadlines will result in a penalty on the grade.

Bibliography required:

- a Reader will be available at Vick Copy (1879 Euclid, corner of Hearst and Euclid)

Recommended:

a) R. Scruton, Short History of Modern Philosophy (Routledge Classics) 2001 (useful, although it covers only the some of the first part of the class. The respective pages are indicated in the syllabus)

b) Frederick Copleston, S.J., History of Philosophy, the respective volumes (Copleston is an older overview that ends with Sartre, so you would need to supplement it with other histories of philosophy)

c) It is also useful to look at encyclopedia articles
e.g. The Encyclopedia of Philosophy, ed. Paul Edwards (New York: Macmillan [1967])

d) Helpful resources in the internet:
   Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
   The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
   Unlike these encyclopedias, Wikipedia is not a reliable academic source!
Class Schedule

The schedule is flexible and subject to changes; if there is not much reading assigned for a particular author, you might want to get a head start on the next ones.

M 2/3  Introduction, left wing Hegelians, Marx and the turn of 1848
      read:  Lawhead p. 453-459
      (suggested reading: Scruton\(^3\) p. 219-233, 234-246)

Kierkegaard
      read:  Reader p. 3-11
      (or: Scruton p. 191-195)

M 2/10  Nietzsche
      read:  Reader p. 12-19
      (suggested reading: Scruton p. 195-199
      or one of the suggested Encyclopedias)

Pragmatism: Peirce, James, Dewey
      read:  Lawhead p. 460-478
      Baird p. 22-40

M 2/17  President’s Day, Academic Holiday

M 2/24  Pragmatism continued

Husserl I
      read\(^3\):  Lawhead p. 527-533
      Baird p. 1-21
      for 1\(^{st}\) person perspective:
      recommended: Reader p. 19-21

M 3/3  Husserl II

M 3/10  Edith Stein and Max Scheler
      read:  Reader p. 21-26, 27-37
      (For Scheler you can find more [here.](#))

M 3/17  Heidegger (I)
      read:  Lawhead p. 534-545
      Baird p. 97-136
      (take home exam handed out)

M 3/24  Reading Week

M 3/31  take home exam due, paper proposals due

Heidegger (II)
      read:  Baird p. 178-205

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\(^3\) *Short History of Modern Philosophy* (Routledge Classics) by Roger Scruton; Routledge; 3\(^{rd}\) edition [November 9, 2001].

\(^4\) Suggested also: Scruton 263-269.
**Monday, April 7**  
*Sartre*  
read: Lawhead p. 546-555  
Baird p. 206-238

*Simone de Beauvoir, Merleau-Ponty*  
read: Baird p. 139-153, 272-274  
Lawhead p. 564-9

**Monday, April 14**  
*Moore and Frege*  
read: Lawhead p. 501f.  
Baird p. 80-96

for Frege, please use  
the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*:  
[http://www.iep.utm.edu/f/frege.htm](http://www.iep.utm.edu/f/frege.htm)

*Russell*  
read: Lawhead p. 500-505  
Baird p. 50-79

**Monday, April 21**  
*Easter Monday, Holiday*

**Monday, April 28**  
*Early Wittgenstein*  
read: Lawhead p. 510-514  
Baird p. 137-149

*Positivism, Ayer*  
read: Lawhead p. 506-510  
Baird p. 166-177

**Monday, May 5**  
*Quine*  
read: Lawhead p. 556-558  
Baird p. 254-271

*later Wittgenstein and Ryle/Austin*  
read: Lawhead p. 514-519, 520-526  
Baird p. 149-165, 286-298

**Monday, May 12**  
*paper due!*  
Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Foucault, Lyotard, Derrida  
read: Lawhead p. 559-561  
Baird p. 326-342, 343-366

**Monday, May 19**  
*last week of classes*  
*evaluations*  
final exam due at the end of this week

Derrida continued; the following only if there is time:  
*Rorty*; read: Lawhead p. 561-3  
Baird p. 367-380

*John Rawls and Communitarianism* (MacIntyre, Taylor)  
read: Baird p. 312-325, 391-408, 422-438

Frankfurt School, Habermas  
read: Baird p. 409-421

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5 Scruton 275-80.  
6 Scruton 281-289.  
7 Scruton 289-294.
**Paper Guidelines**
The topic of your paper will ideally be a comparison of two philosophers on a given issue. Examples might be:

- *Anxiety in Kierkegaard and Heidegger.*
- *Language in Wittgenstein and Gadamer.*
- *Time in Husserl and Augustine.*

There are many other possibilities. I do encourage you to use topics of your own interest or background. There are many graduate student conferences now; you might want to write a paper with an eye to presenting it in such a venue. An increasing number of students have done so successfully.
The topic is, however, subject to approval. You can talk to me before or after your proposal.

The paper is a **research paper (15 pages, 12pt, double space)**. Hence I expect you to research and use secondary literature. This is to be documented in the use of footnotes (**not endnotes!**) and in a **bibliography**.

The **bibliography** is most important. Please make your bibliography **as specific as possible**. I would like to see at least **three pertinent journal articles** in your bibliography; this is more important than generic books. As a help: please use the “**philosopher’s index**” at the GTU library, although this might only provide you with a starting point. Topics without pertinent literature are not viable; if it requires extensive research on primary texts, you should leave it for your dissertation.

To avoid some common pitfalls: please **focus on your topic**. There is no need for biographical introductions on philosophers. (Biographical details can, of course, be brought in, if they explain some subject matter.)

Please avoid flowery or cryptic **language**. Be as sober as possible. Building literary smoke screens will not make your paper appear more profound, but only less intelligible. Focus on making arguments and positions clear.

Do some **proofreading**. If English is your second language, it can be a good idea to ask someone else to help you. Please do write complete sentences that have a grammatical structure. (Unfortunately that does not always seem to be self-understood.) Shorter sentences can make that easier. Grammatical correctness is more important than political correctness (e.g. do not use “they” as a singular).

**Subdividing it into chapters** (with headlines) can help the structure of your paper. It will help the clarity of your own thought process – as well as that of the reader. Please use page numbers.

**Plagiarism** is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade.

**Proposal**
The proposal is due the class after reading week. It consists in 2 or 3 sentences, stating your topic, plus a pertinent bibliography. (Please do not include the textbooks of the class.) This exercise is meant to help you to clarify your topic and focus your bibliography; after that, the paper should come easy. It is also a good exercise for a future thesis proposal. The topic is subject to approval.