RSCE 5003: History of Western Social and Ethical Thought II

Spring 2015

Instructor:
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Guest Lecturers:
Bradley Burroughs
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Tuesdays 2:10-5:00 Mudd 204

Course Description: This class is part 2 of the doctoral level seminar for students in Ethics and Social Theory Area plus advanced Masters level students. According to our published description, the doctoral program in Ethics and Social Theory prepares students to contextualize the major figures in the development of the disciplines of ethics and social theory, and to interrelate these disciplines….” This seminar should contribute to these purposes. We will read together significant texts from what is currently considered the canon for these academic disciplines, and work on relating the significance of each text to its time, to other texts, and to contemporary reading of them. An Introduction to Christian Ethics or Moral Theology is prerequisite for this course.

Learning Objectives:
1. Develop a foundational competency in describing texts drawn from the second half of the Ph.D. bibliography for the Comprehensive Exam I: History of Western Social and Ethical Thought;
2. Develop a skill of critical appropriation of these historic texts, using as examples readings by contemporary theorists whose work relates to them;
3. Participate in an informed way in the discussion of the intentions of the authors and their commentators;
4. Prepare for the Comprehensive Exam in August, if you are planning to take it.

**Course Requirements:**
1. Read in preparation for in-class accurate summation of the texts plus critical assessment of the authors’ purposes;
2. Participate verbally in class as a colleague in appreciative interrogation of the texts;
3. Prepare a written answer to three of the study questions that will be distributed to you at the beginning of the Seminar;
4. Share your written answers with, and receive feedback from, your peers.

**Required Texts:**
Some of these texts are in public domain and available on the web


**Supplemental Readings for Critical Appropriation: On Moodle**

Maria Pilar Aquino, “The Irruption of History into Women’s Life and Consciousness,” and “Latin American Women’s Discovery of Causality,” in *Our Cry for Life: Feminist Theology from Latin America*


Seyla Benhabib, “On Hegel, Women, and Irony,” Chap 8 in *Situating the Self*

Jean Bethke Elshtain, “Reflections on War and Political Discourse: Realism, Just War, and Feminism in a Nuclear Age” in *War in the Twentieth Century*


Assignments:

Feb 3: Introduction to class and general discussion.


Feb 24: G. F. W. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*: Preface, Introduction, of First Part (i and ii); 2nd part; of Third Part: Ethical Life, introductory section (105-110), civil society (122-26), the state (155-6-); plus Seyla Benhabib, “On Hegel, Women, and Irony,” Chapter 8 in *Situating the Self*

Mar 3: Karl Marx, Selections from Writings (Part 1, in *The Marx Engels Reader*, 16-126, 143-200); Part II: *Capital*, in *The Marx Engels Reader* vol. 1, 294-438; vol. 3, 439-42; plus Maria Pilar Aquino, “The Irruption of History into Women’s Life and Consciousness,” and “Latin American Women’s Discovery of Causality,” in *Our Cry for Life: Feminist Theology from Latin America*


Mar 17: Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Mar 23—27: Spring Recess

March 31: First Exam question and answer due. Ernst Troeltsch, *The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches*

Apr 7: Walter Rauschenbusch, *A Theology for the Social Gospel*
Apr 14: Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Nature and Destiny of Man, Vols. 1 and 2*

Apr 21: **Second Exam question and answer due.** H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*

April 28: W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*

May 5: Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*

May 12: Final Class Review

May 22 (Friday): **Third Exam question and answer due.**