Philosophy Department

19TH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY
SPRING 1996
KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais
Philosophy Department, Kalamazoo College. Humphrey House #202
Office Hours: 1) Mon. 9:00 - 10:00 2) Tues. 2:00 - 4:00 3) By Appointment.

COURSE GOALS:

This course introduces students to 19th-century, Continental-European philosophy by focusing on a single issue: namely the problem of how humans develop personal identities in social settings. We will explore how Kant, Schiller, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche conceive of a "free" or "autonomous" self-determination -- the education of the self, if you will. These philosophers offer quite different accounts of the role of reason, will, imagination, skills and interpersonal relations in the formation of self.

EVALUATION:
Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, vocabulary quizzes, midterm examinations and a final paper.

Class Participation, Seminar presentations and discussion=20%
Midterm examinations 2 @ 15% each=30%
Quizzes 5 @ 5% each=25%
Final Paper 10-15 pages=25%

POLICIES:
Open, respectful and critical discussion is the life-blood of this course. Quizzes offer students and teacher the opportunity to identify and to clarify central terms/concepts. The midterm examinations test comprehension of key philosophical issues, and the final paper offers students the opportunity to respond in depth to a single topic. The final paper is due on the day scheduled for the final examination. 3 unexcused absences will result in a full grade reduction.

TEXTS:


GERMAN ACROSS THE CURRICULUM COMPONENT: Selected texts may be read in the German original. GAC students will be given alternative assignments and weekly tutorials.

BRIDGE READING COMPONENT: Students interested in linking course material to their major course of study will be given special readings and assignments. Tutorial meetings are required, and the final paper must be completed in consultation with professor in home department.

Psychology: Students interested in exploring the philosophical foundations of developmental psychology will be given readings that link the course to the works of Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kohlberg and Carol Gilligan.

Political Science: Students interested in examining the philosophical roots of current debates in political theory and feminist philosophy will be given readings by contemporary political thinkers who analyze modern politics in the light of 19th-century philosophers.

Religion: Students interested in a fuller examination of Kierkegaard's theology in contemporary discussions will be given readings that discuss Kierkegaard's critique of secular identity formation.

READING SCHEDULE

I. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: THE KANTIAN LEGACY

WEEK ONE
MON: MARCH 25TH: Course Mechanics.

WED: MARCH 27TH:
1. Solomon, Part 1 (pp. 1 - 77)

WEEK TWO
MON: APRIL 1ST
1. Solomon, Part 1 (Cont.).
2. Schiller, Letter One to Twelve.

WED: APRIL 3RD:
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven.
2. Quiz #1.

II. SCHILLER'S RECONCILIATION OF FREEDOM AND NATURE: AESTHETIC SELF-DEVELOPMENT

WED: APRIL 3RD:
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven.
2. Quiz #1.

WEEK THREE
MON: APRIL 8TH:
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven. (Cont.).
WED: APRIL 10TH:
1. Schiller (end).
2. Quiz #2.

III. HEGEL’S ACCOUNT OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT: LOGICAL SELF-DETERMINATION.

WEEK FOUR
MON: APRIL 15TH:
1. Hegel, "Philosophy Must Become Scientific." (pp. 1-29).

WED: APRIL 17TH:
1. Hegel, "The idea of a Phenomenology of the Spirit" (pp. 29-57).
2. Quiz #3.

WEEK FIVE
MON: APRIL 22ND:
1. Hegel, "Truth" & "Conclusion" (pp. 57-113).
2. First Midterm Examination.

WED.: APRIL 24TH:
1. Hegel, "The Struggle of Master and Slave" [Handout].
2. EVENING MOVIE: "The Collector."

IV. MARX’S CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM: THE MATERIALIST ACCOUNT OF SELF-FORMATION.

WEEK SIX
MON: APRIL 29TH:
2. Quiz #4.

V. KIERKEGAARD’S ATTACK UPON AUTO-TELIC ACCOUNTS OF IDENTITY FORMATION: RESTING TRANSPARENTLY IN ANOTHER.

WED: MAY 1ST:
2. "Kierkegaard, The Sickness Unto Death, Preface, Introduction and "Despair Is the Sickness unto Death" and "The Universality of This Sickness" (pp. 13-28).

WEEK SEVEN
MON: MAY 6TH:
1. Kierkegaard, The Sickness Unto Death, "The Forms of This Sickness" (pp. 29-74).

WED: MAY 8TH:
1. Kierkegaard, The Sickness Unto Death, "Despair is Sin" (pp. 77-104).

WEEK EIGHT
MON: MAY 13TH:
2. Quiz #4.
VI. NEITZSCHE'S GENEALOGICAL 'UNMASKING' OF IDEALISM AND MATERIALISM: THE SELF IS THE WILL TO POWER.

WED: MAY 15TH:
1. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, Preface, "'Good and Evil,' 'Good and Bad'" (pp. 1-57).

WEEK NINE
MON: MAY 20TH:
1. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, "'Guilt,' 'Bad Conscience,' and the Like" (pp. 57-97).

WED: MAY 22ND:
1. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, "What is the Meaning of Ascetic Ideals" (97-167).

WEEK TEN
MON: MAY 27TH:
1. MEMORIAL DAY.

WED: MAY 29TH:
1. Student Evaluations.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

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Official Credits

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