Philosophy Department

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE
1200 Academy St. Kalamazoo, MI 49006

19TH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY
FALL 2000

KALAMAZOO COLLEGE

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais
Philosophy Department
Kalamazoo College
Humphrey House #202
Telephone # 337-7076
Offices Hours:

1) Mon. 11:30 - 1:30.
2) Tues. 11:30- 12:30.
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 "autonomous" or "free" 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 10%
- Midterm examinations 2 @ 20% each 40%
- Quizzes 5 @ 5% each 25%
- Final Paper 10-15 pages 25%

http://kzoo.edu/phil/19thCenF00.html
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. Students interested in issues of identity formation in self-psychology and psychoanalysis will be given a different set of readings. See Psychology Bridge-Readings (Philosophy Homepage).

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

1. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: THE KANTIAN LEGACY:

TUESDAY: WEEK ONE
1. Introductory Lecture: "Kant's Transcendental Idealism."

THURSDAY:
2. Quiz #1.

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

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

THURSDAY:
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven.
2. Quiz #2.

TUESDAY:  
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven. (Cont.).

THURSDAY:  
1. Schiller (end).
2. Quiz #3.

3. HEGEL'S ACCOUNT OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT: LOGICAL SELF-DETERMINATION:

TUESDAY:  
1. Hegel, "Philosophy Must Become Scientific." (pp. 1-29).

THURSDAY:  
1. Hegel, "The idea of a Phenomenology of the Spirit" (pp. 29-57).
2. Quiz #4.

TUESDAY:  
1. Hegel, "Truth" & "Conclusion" (pp. 57-113).
2. First Midterm Examination.

THURSDAY:  
1. Hegel, "The Struggle of Master and Slave" [Handout].
2. Evening movie: "The Collector."
4. MARX'S CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM: THE MATERIALIST ACCOUNT OF SELF-FORMATION:

TUESDAY: WEEK SIX

THURSDAY:

5. KIERKEGAARD'S ATTACK UPON AUTO-TELIC ACCOUNTS OF IDENTITY FORMATION: "RESTING TRANSPARENTLY IN ANOTHER":

TUESDAY: WEEK SEVEN

THURSDAY:
1. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, "Preliminary Expectoration" & "Problema 1" (pp. 27-68).

TUESDAY: WEEK EIGHT
1. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (cont.)
THURSDAY:
   1. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (end).

6. NIETZSCHE'S GENEALOGICAL "UNMASKING" OF IDEALISM AND MATERIALISM: THE SELF AS THE WILL TO POWER:

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

THURSDAY:
   1. Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morals, "'Guilt,' 'Bad Conscience,' and the Like" (pp. 57-97).

TUESDAY:
   1. Student Evaluations.

FINALS WEEK

Back to Syllabi List
Philosophy Homepage | Academic Departments Page | Kalamazoo College Homepage

This page currently maintained by Chris Latiolais
Please direct any questions or comments to the Chair of the Department.
Copyright 1997 Kalamazoo College. All rights reserved.
Updated September 8th, 2000