29102. Mozart’s Mature Comic Operas

BUCH, David

1:30 - 2:50p
TU/TH

xTAPS 29102/MUSI 24509

Attendance at first class is MANDATORY. Acquaintance with musical scores and the Italian & German Librettos of Mozart. For questions please contact bliaduca@uchicago.edu

30960. The History of History

DASTON, Lorraine

1:30 - 4:20p
THU

xHIST 45201

Graduate seminar open to undergrads w/consent

History may have begun in the Western tradition with Herodotus and Thucydides, but it didn’t stop there. This seminar selectively surveys the ways in which historians have plied their craft to make and break traditions, assert identities, define the nature of facts and evidence, undermine received certainties, make sense of the present, and peer into the future. Texts will include Valla, Bayle, Gibbon, Hume, Tocqueville, Hegel, Michelet, Ranke, Nietzsche, Braudel, Furet.

Please note: this course will be taught the first five weeks of the quarter.

31200. The Odyssey and the Epic Tradition

SLATKIN, Laura

1:30 - 4:20p
M/W

xCLAS 44700

Open to undergrads

In this course we will read the Odyssey in English in its entirety, supplemented by selections from the Iliad and other texts from the archaic period, including the Hesiodic Catalogue of Women. Among our concerns will be: the uses of tradition; modes of social critique in early Greek poetry; the interaction of genres; the Odyssey’s construction of values; the political economy of epic; gender in the Homeric poems. Although no knowledge of Greek is required for this course, there will be assignment options for those who wish to do reading in Greek.

31710. Machiavelli’s The Prince and Discourses

TARCOV, Nathan

3:00 - 4:20p
M/W

xPLSC 20800 & 32100/ FNDL 29300

Open to grads

This course is devoted to reading Machiavelli’s Prince and Discourses on Livy supplemented by selections from Livy’s history of Rome. Themes include princes, peoples, and elites; republics and principalities; pagan and Christian religion and morality; war and empire; founding and reform; virtue, corruption, and fortune; ancient history and modern experience; reading and writing; and theory and practice.

32720. AnthroLit: World Poetry

FRIEDRICH, Paul

9:00-11:50a
TH

xANTH 38414

Open to undergrads w/consent

Exploration of the world’s lyric poetry (poets and poetic cultures) that braids 1) certain paradigmatic problems (e.g., tradition and individual talent, interpretation of the body, death), 2) poetic form (e.g., metrics, the sonnet (“The Chinese Sonnet”), as in Pushkin, Dickinson, Sor Juana, Tu Fu), 3) vignettes from a world sample (e.g., Sumerian, Zuni, Vietnamese, Mayan, Tamil, Nuer, Yupik Eskimo), and, beyond that, 4) how does poetry essentialize cultural values, reflect changing notions of love and jealousy, become relevant to politics, or be integrated with a metaphysics? These four components will be interwoven extemporaneously, supplemented by occasional very short lectures. An initial one-page paper on Wang Wei, two three-page papers ona poem, or an issue, and a final 7-10 page paper on poetics. Texts include Classical Chinese Poetry and Technicians of the Sacred.

34516. Montaigne, Pascal, Malebranche, Hume (and others) on the Proofs of the Existence of God

MARION, Jean-Luc & CARRAUD, Vincent

3:00-5:50p
M

xDVPR 33500/PHIL 33500

After studying in spring 2010 Descartes and Kant as the two main figures of what could be seen as a system of the proofs of the existence of God in modern metaphysics (with the organization of the three proofs, according to three metaphysical names of God: infinite, ens summe perfectum and causa sui), this seminar will focus on the resistance to that system either by skeptical Christians, focusing on the transcendence of God (Montaigne, Pascal), or by more systematic thinkers who want to unify the threefold system (Malebranche), or by skeptical natural theologians (Locke and Hume). Some other authors may be added, as Fenelon and Bossuet. (This course will be co-taught with Prof. Vincent Carraud/University of Caen.)
Committee on Social Thought  
SPRING 2011  
Course Schedule

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**34700. Hindu Mythology**

DONIGER, Wendy  
1:30-2:50p  
S 208  
W/FR  
xHREL 34700/RLST 26100/  
SALC 38301  

**Designed for undergrads, grad students welcome**

A survey of the great mythological themes of Hinduism, read in texts in English translation, starting with the Rg Veda, continuing through the Epics and Puranas, and ending with contemporary folk telling.  
**Requirement:** paper at the end of the quarter.

**37101. Love in Late Medieval Spanish Letters:**

Love in Late Medieval Spanish Letters: Libro de Buen Amor and Celestina  
NIRENBERG, David & GILES, Ryan  
1:30-4:20p  
F 305  
FR  
XSPAN 28100 & 38100/  
FNDL 27905  

**Open to undergrads**

A close reading of these two “Masterworks of Spanish Literature,” with an emphasis on their place in the evolution of late medieval ideas about love as the basis for inter-subjectivity and community. We will pay special attention to the emerging tensions within Christian discourses about love, the effect of mass conversions of Judaism on Castilian literature, and the place of the Celestina in accounts of the rise of “secularism.”

**37313. Leo Strauss: Thoughts on Machiavelli**

MEIER, Heinrich  
10:30a-1:20p  
F 505  
M/W  
xPHIL 37313/PLSC 37313/  
FNDL 27313  

**Graduate Seminar – open to ug**

In this seminar I shall present a discussion of one of the most demanding books of Leo Strauss and one of the great philosophical works of the 20th century.  
**Thoughts on Machiavelli,** published in 1958, is the most engaging interpretation we have of Machiavelli’s thought. At the same time it is Strauss’s most carefully written treatise on revealed religion. My interpretation will focus on “the problem of Machiavelli” and on the challenge of revealed religion to philosophy. It will pay special attention to the problem of any philosophical tradition and to the problem of philosophy’s capacity to change the world.  
The seminar will take place in Foster 505 on Monday/Wednesday, 10:30a-1:20p during the first five weeks of the quarter (March 28 – April 27, 2011)

**44001. Naming God: Event, Form, Fragment.**

TRACY, David W.  
1:30-4:20p  
S 106  
FR  
xTHEO 44001  

This course will study the philosophical and theological categories of event, form, and fragment for contemporary attempts to name God as Incomprehensible, Hidden, and Trinitarian Love.

**44911. The History of Feeling: On Naïve and Sentimental Poetry**

WELLBERY, David  
3:00-5:50p  
Wb 206  
GRMN 36111  

This seminar is an attempt to understand Schiller’s treatise Über naïve und sentimentalische Dichtung (1796). We will endeavor to reconstruct the literary, philosophical, and biographical context within which the thoughts of that treatise formed themselves and to which they responded. In addition to texts by Schiller, we will study writings by Diderot, Mendelssohn, and Kant on the concept of naïveté; literary works by Geßner, Goethe (Die Leiden des jungen Werthers; Hermann und Dorothea), Voss (Homer translation, Luise); correspondence of Goethe, Schiller, Körner, W. von Humboldt, and others. Key contributions to the interpretation of Schiller’s treatise (e.g., Brinkmann, Jauss, Szondi) will be consulted along with contemporary theories of the emotions.

**49800. Reading Course: Non-Social Thought**

ARR  
Open only to non-Social Thought Graduate Students: enter section from faculty list on web.

**49900. Reading Course: Social Thought**

ARR  
Open only to Social Thought students: enter section from faculty list on web.
This seminar will raise the question whether Pascal belongs to philosophy or not, and to what extent. It will therefore consider the relations between the original project of *Apology for the Christian Religion* and the different figures of philosophy in the days of Pascal: 1/ ancient philosophies as "spiritual exercizes", and their failure as adressed in the project of Apology (with the first anthropology of misery and greatness); 2/ the Cartesian foundation of science by a new metaphysics, which paid a crucial role in the formation of Pascal, on the basis of which only his incisive anti-Cartesianism could have been developed; 3/the second anthropology, a quasi hermeutics of human existence, by which eventually Pascal envisages existential situations in a phenomenological view point.

Some knowledge of Saint Augustine (particulary *On the true Religion*), Montaigne (mostly *Apology of Raymond Sebond*) and Descartes (*Meditations* as a whole) is required.

*Bibliography*


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G.E.M. Anscombe is now recognized to be one of the leading philosophical minds in the 2nd half of the 20th century. The class will be devoted to central themes of her philosophy: Reference and substance / Assertion, negation, and reality / Causation and necessity / Time and memory / Knowledge and certainty / Theoretical and practical reasoning / Intention and Action / Intentionality and psychological concepts / Private ontensive definition and the first First Person / Brute facts and the creation of institutions / Practical necessity and morality / Utilitarianism and Double Effect / Murder, sex and religion. The aim is to understand relevant texts, assess their claims, and pursue the problems raised by them.

Starting with *Die Frage nach dem Ding*, 1962 (What is a thing? Am. Trans. W.B. Barton & V. Deutsch, Chicago, 1967), the seminar will follow up the inquiry into the way of presence of the phenomenon, as not reduced to objectivity (nor even to utensibility). After reading *Der spruch Anaximander* (1946, in *Holzwege*, G.A. 5), we shall focus on the Bremen and Freiburger Vortrage (in G.A. 79) with the parallels in Bortage und Aufsatze (G.A. 11). Although using the standard translations (e.g., "The Thing", in the questions concerning Technology and other essays, W. Lovitt, Harper & Row, 1968; "The Turn" and "The Question on Technique" in Poetry, Hofstadter, Harper & Row. 1971; etc.); the seminar will be based on the German text. Hence, a good reading knowledge of German is required for this reading class.

There is a traditional division of philosophy into theoretical and practical philosophy. In this seminar we shall study the idea of poetical philosophy as an activity that is distinguished from both by method, subject matter and aim. Poetical philosophy purports to be an activity of the imagination in quest of an understanding of the creative character of men or of the logos. Like mysticism, poetical philosophy purports to fill in the “incompleteness” of the space of reasons. In order to get an adequate notion of poetical philosophy, different philosophical pictures of the “incompleteness” of rational life should be carefully scrutinized. One can say poetical philosophy deals with images or signifiers rather than concepts. We shall discuss the difference between concepts and images and signifiers in the context of a discussion of the relation between poetical philosophy and philosophical activity understood as the clarification of
fundamental concepts. We shall see why psychoanalysis plays nowadays a central role within poetical philosophy. We shall also touch on questions concerning the future organization of the humanities in university.

59200. WKSHOP: Literature & Philosophy  
MALINOWSKA, Agnes & SUBIALKA, Michael  
4:30-6:00p  
F 305  
xPHIL 59200  
TH (every other Thursday beginning first week of quarter)  
Grads only  
Robert Pippin is the faculty advisor.

The Literature and Philosophy Workshop is a forum for discussion among graduate students and faculty interested in questions raised at the intersection of philosophy and literature. We work across traditional disciplinary boundaries to encourage a conversation that transcends historical and geographical divisions. Topics of interest to the workshop include (though they are not limited to): the philosophy of literature, philosophy in literature and literary philosophy, the influence of philosophy on literature and vice-versa, the overlap of philosophy and literature in the intellectual imaginary, intellectual and/or literary exchange between philosophers and literary figures, and hybrid forms of cultural production (e.g. myth).

59900. Dissertation Research  
Staff  
ARR  
ARR  
Admission to Candidacy or Consent of Instructor. 
Enter section from faculty list on web.