

Committee on Social Thought **WINTER 2014** Course Schedule --- 1

20696. Love and Identity in Kierkegaard's *Either/Or* **MOSHER, Hannah** 10:30-11:50a F505 xFNDL 22206
M/W Undergrad course

Either/Or was Soren Kierkegaard's first published text. It was published pseudonymously as a collection of philosophical papers, speeches, letters, diaries and sermons supposedly written by three characters: Victor Eremita (the editor), A (the aesthete), and Judge William (the married judge). In these papers, we see the pseudonymous authors working out their views on such themes as seduction, gender relations, the relationship (or mis-relationship) between marriage and romantic love, what grounds personal identity, how to live a genuinely individual life in a culture dominated by prosaic social conventions, and the conflict between a way of life devoted to the aesthetic and a way of life committed to the ethical. In this course, we will do a close reading of Kierkegaard's *Either/Or* considering such questions as: What kind of text is this? How does Kierkegaard's use of pseudonymous authors change the way we read this as a philosophical text and how might the text be intended to affect us as readers? Do you have to reject social conventions to live a life that is genuinely individual? Why write about romantic love in a book about ethics? How does romantic love relate to personal identity? What kinds of views of romantic love are available to us in our "modern" or "post-modern" societies and why does it matter what view we take?

Note: This course is intended for more advanced undergraduates (students who have already taken the full Humanities Core sequence), but no prior knowledge of Kierkegaard or 19th century philosophy would be expected or required.

26001. Biography & Autobiography **WARREN Rosanna** 10:30-11:50a F 505 xSCTH 36011
T/R

This course will examine the nature of biographical and autobiographical writing from a wide range of cultural and historical contexts. While last quarter focused on the genre of the epic – texts that imagine and even create a people's sense of a shared past and a shared culture – this quarter will focus on how individuals image their own, particular lives. We will explore, among other issues, how the self is constructed through reading and writing, the relationship between memory and identity, the claims of authenticity, the oscillation between interior and exterior life, and the peculiarities of individual voice.

31612. Sophocles' *Electra* **MOST, Glenn** 9:00a-11:50a F 305 xGREK 45913
T Open to ug by consent
PQ: Knowledge of Ancient Greek or Consent of Instructor.

A close philological, literary, and cultural analysis of Sophocles' dramatization of the death of Heracles and the Devastating power of Eros.

31712. Early American Novels **TARCOV, Nathan & PAYNE, Mark** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xENGL 38701/FNDL 23402

An introductory reading of Charels Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly* (1799), James Fenimore Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans* (1826), and Herman Melville's *The Confidence Man* (1857).

34012. Kurosawa and his Sources **SOLOVIEVA, Olga** 1:30-4:20p xCMLT 34410/EALC 34410
W
7:00-9:30p – Film screening

PQ: "Intro to Film" or "Close analysis of Film" class.
This interdisciplinary graduate course focuses on ten films of Akira Kurosawa which were based on literary sources, ranging from Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Jules Dassin, and Georges Simenon to Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Gorky, and Arseniev. The course will not only introduce to some theoretical and intermedial problems of adaptation of literature to film but also address cultural and political implications of Kurosawa's adaptation of classic and foreign sources. We will study how Kurosawa's turn to literary adaptation provided a vehicle for circumventing social taboos of his time and offered a screen for addressing politically sensitive and sometimes censored topics of Japan's militarist past, war crimes, defeat in the Second World War, and ideological conflicts of reconstruction.

The course will combine film analysis with close reading of relevant literary sources, contextualized by current work of political, economic, and cultural historians of postwar Japan. The course is meant to provide a hands-on training in the interdisciplinary methodology of Comparative Literature.

Undergraduate students can be admitted only with the permission of the instructor.

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34519. Painting, Phenomenality, Religion	MARION, Jean-Luc	3-5:50p M	S 106	xDVPR 39104/THEO 39104/ ARTH 29104 & 39104/ PHIL 23903 & 33903
<p>Painting raises philosophical questions, if only because one can wonder why some particular pieces of the overall visible may attract more visual attention than others, which appear nevertheless just besides the former. In fact, this privilege comes mostly from the radical (although subtle) difference between common law phenomena (objects) and saturated phenomena. Among them, the two main rival postulations are idol and icon. Concerning the idol, one may ask what precisely is its function? How far can it reach the thing itself even more than objective knowledge (the examples of Courbet and Cezanne will be privileged)? Concerning the icon, one may open the road to theological questions: how far can the invisible God be aimed at through visible images? Is iconoclasm the only option? What theological arguments could support the claim for icons (Nicene Council II)? Can the concept of icon be extended to other issues than "the icon of the invisible God" (Colossians 1, 15)?</p>				
34803. Gibbon's <i>Decline and Fall</i> -2	LERNER, Ralph	9:30-10:50a M/W	F 305	xFNDL 24303 Undergrads – 3 rd year or higher
<p>A close reading of the second half of Gibbon's masterwork.</p>				
35704. Martin Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i>	KIMHI, Irad	10:30-11:50a M/W	F 305	xPHIL 23412 & 33412 Basically for undergrads.
<p>The course will be devoted to this book. We shall pay attention to Heidegger's understanding of the human being as <i>being-ini-the-world</i>, which we shall place, historically and conceptually, in relation to ideas concerning the being of the human in German idealism and in classical Aristotelian philosophy.</p>				
35705. Theories of Judgments and Propositions	KIMHI, Irad	3:30-6:20p T	F 505	xPHIL 23416 & 33416 Intended for Grad students
<p>The course is an historical survey and conceptual introduction to fundamental philosophical questions concerning the nature of the logos (judgments, proposition) that have stood at center of philosophy since the contributions of Plato and Aristotle. This survey will give us an opportunity to reflect on the idea of philosophical history and the nature of its continuity. We shall discuss theories of the logos in Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, Medieval and Early modern philosophy, Kant and German idealism, Frege, and Wittgenstein. This course is intended for graduate students, no special background is required.</p>				
35914. Early Novels: <i>The Ethiopian Story, Parzival, Old Arcadia.</i>	MOST, Glenn & PAVEL, Thomas	3-4:20p M/W		xCMLT 24402 & 34402/ RLLT 24402 & 34402
<p>This course will introduce the students to the oldest sub-genres of the novel, the idealist story, the chivalric tale and the pastoral. It will emphasize the originality of these forms and discuss their interaction with the later Spanish, French, and English novel.</p>				
37105. Augustine, <i>The City of God</i>	NIRENBERG, David & ANDO, Clifford	1:30-4:20p R	F 305	xHIST 23513 & 33513/CLAS 46313 Both undergrad and grad
<p>We will undertake a close reading of Augustine's <i>The City of God</i>, with attention to its Late Antique historical, theological and political contexts, as well as to some of the ways in which it was read and the work to which it was put in other times and places.</p>				
38230. Victor Hugo: <i>Les Miserables</i>	MORRISSEY, Robert J.	3-5:50p W	Wb 207	xFREN 26103 & 36103/ FNDL 21806

PQ: All classes and texts in French; presentations preferred in French, but English will be acceptable depending on students' concentration. Written work in French or English.

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40701. Many Ramayanas	DONIGER, Wendy	1:30-2:50p M/W	S 208	xHREL 42501/SALC 42501/ FNDL 22911/RLST 26801
<p>A close reading of the great Hindu Epic, the story of Rama's recovery of his wife, Sita, from the demon Ravana on the island of Lanka, with special attention to changes in the telling of the story throughout Indian history, up to its present use as a political weapon against Muslims and a rallying point for Hindu fundamentalists. Readings in Paula Richman, <i>Many Ramayanas</i> and <i>Questioning Ramayanas</i>; in translations of the <i>Ramayanas</i> of Valmiki, Kampan, Tulsi, and Michael Dutta, as well as the <i>Ramajataka</i>; <i>Rama the Steadfast</i>, trans. Brockington; the <i>Yogavasistha-Maharamayana</i>; and contemporary comic books and films.</p>				
44912. Goethe's Faust - I	WELLBERY, David	3:00-5:50p W	Wb 408	xGRMN 46114/CMLT 46114
<p>This is the first part of a two-quarter seminar devoted to Goethe's <i>Faust</i> tragedy, with each segment devoted to one of the work's two parts. Since three substantial new editions (plus commentary) have been published within the past two decades, scholarship now finds itself in an excellent position to develop theoretically informed readings of what is arguably the most significant work in the German canon. The main task of the first-quarter seminar will be to examine <i>Faust I</i>. However, we will also consider the Faust tradition, including the 1587 <i>Volksbuch</i> (so-called), Lessing's <i>Faust</i> fragment, and some other contemporary and subsequent renditions of <i>Faust</i>. This segment will also provide an opportunity to survey Goethe's poetic and intellectual development from 1770 to 1808, when <i>Faust I</i> was first published in its complete form. Of particular interest in our investigation of <i>Faust I</i> will be: a) the theological background; b) structural principles; c) linguistic figuration. Prominent interpretations of the play by Goethe's contemporaries (e.g., Schelling, Hegel) will be considered. We shall also examine two sequences of <i>Faust</i> illustrations by Peter Cornelius and Eugène Delacroix as well as two performances of the drama (from dvd). This seminar may be taken alone, or in combination with the seminar on <i>Faust II</i>. Students taking both seminars are encouraged to write a single substantial research paper.</p>				
46011. The Poetry and Prose of Thomas Hardy	WARREN, Rosanna W	1:30-4:20p	F 305	xENGL 23708 & 43708
<p>A close reading of five novels and selected early, middle, and late poems by Thomas Hardy, with attention to the contexts of Victorian and Modern literary culture.</p>				
49800. Reading Course: Non-Social Thought	ARR	ARR	Open only to non-Social Thought Graduate Students: enter section from faculty list on web.	
49900. Reading Course: Social Thought	ARR	ARR	Open only to Social Thought students: enter section from faculty list on web.	
50601. Hegel's Science of Logic	PIPPIN, Robert	12:30-3:20p M	F 505	xPHIL 50601 Graduate Seminar
<p>Hegel's chief theoretical work is called <i>The Science of Logic</i>. An abridged version is the first part of the various versions of his <i>Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences</i>. We shall read and discuss representative passages from both versions, and attempt to understand Hegel's theory of concepts, judgment, and inference, and the place or role of such an account in his overall philosophical position. Several contemporary interpretations of these issues will also be considered.</p>				
<p>PQ: Prior work in Kant's theoretical philosophy is a prerequisite.</p>				

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50911. Practical Reason

ENGSTROM, Stephen

1:30-4:20p
W

F 505

xPHIL 51506

Graduate Seminar

This course will be devoted to recovering an understanding of practical reason that was developed over the course of a long tradition in practical philosophy, extending from Plato and Aristotle up through Kant. The primary text will be Kant's *Critique of practical Reason*, but readings will also include selections from Kant's other writings and from recent literature relating to practical reason. The main aim will be to understand the idea that reason has a practical application, which constitutes a capacity for a distinct type of knowledge, practical knowledge, whose object is the good. Topics that will need to be investigated include (on the epistemological side) reason and rational knowledge and the difference between theoretical and practical knowledge, and (on the psychological side) perception and desire, and feeling and action. Some prior familiarity with Kant's ethics (and Aristotle's ethics) will be helpful, but is not required.

50912. Interpretation: Legal, Literary and Philosophical Aspects

STONE, Martin

3:30-6:20p
M

F 505

xPHIL 51832

Graduate Seminar

"Interpretation" is called for in a wide variety of everyday and specialized domains. Part of what attracts philosophical attention to the concept of "interpretation" are two implications which deployments of it usually seem to carry: first, that there is a clarifying response to a meaning that is already there (i.e., "interpretation" is not pure invention); second, that, nonetheless, some creativity or innovation may be involved (i.e., "that's one interpretation"). How can both of these things be true? How can the clarification or preservation of a meaning that is already there also involve innovation? This puzzle is related to others which tend to inform contemporary debates about "interpretation": Is there such a thing as an objectively correct interpretation? Can there really be a plurality of conflicting (but equally good) interpretations? Is every take on the meaning of a text an interpretation? A further question concerns the unity of interpretation: Does "interpretation" describe a distinctive form of understanding and explanation which, as some have claimed, picks out and structures the domain we call the "humanities"? Or is "interpretation" rather a loose collection of different techniques for elucidation, which vary according to the type of thing being interpreted? Taking up these questions, we will examine the concept of interpretation as it functions in a few different domains – e.g., law, literature, self-understanding – before turning to the broader question of the unity of interpretation across the humanities. Readings will be from Wittgenstein, Kripke, Derrida, Gadamer, Iser, Sartre, Walter Benn Michaels, Charles Taylor, Ronald Dworkin, Joseph Raz, Antonin Scalia, Alexander Nehamas, Stanley Cavell, Richard Moran, among others.

51904. The Concept of Revelation Between Philosophy and Theology

MARION, Jean-Luc

3-5:50p
T

S 106

xDVPR 55400/THEO 55400/
PHIL 53420

The main issues raised by the notion of "Revelation" are quite well-known. First, understood as the "deposit of faith", it has appeared somehow lately in the history of Christian theology; then, it has imposed itself mostly within a highly questionable dichotomy between revealed truths and truths conveyed by reason or nature, a distinction implying by the way the autonomy and primacy of philosophy; last, in its modern interpretation as propositional Revelation missed the hermeneutical and historical dimensions of biblical reports. – What revised concept of "Revelation" could be proposed? – Theologically, one should pay close attention to the fact that, in the *New Testament* (no matter whether in the *Synoptics*, *Paul* or *John*), *apocalypsis* refers first and mostly to the dis-covery uncovering the coming Kingdom of God, the *mysterion tou theou* and the final salvation of the believers: therefore that it implies an eschatological event, both coming and yet to come, future oriented much more than a past and everlasting input of information. – Philosophically then, one may focus more on phenomena understood as events, rather than as objects, in order to build a renewed and consistent concept of a phenomenon of revelation in general.

59900. Dissertation Research

Staff

ARR

ARR

Admission to Candidacy or Consent of Instructor.
Enter section from faculty list on web.

Other:

59200. WKSHP: Literature & Philosophy

**LANE, Carly &
SIMMONS, Joseph**

4:30-6:00p
TH

xPHIL 59200

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).

52000. WKSHP: Political Theory

**GOODING-WILLIAMS,
Robert**

12-1:20p
M

P 506 xPLSC 520000
Grads only.