

Committee on Social Thought **SPRING 2011** Course Schedule --- 1

29102. Mozart's Mature Comic Operas **BUCH, David** 1:30-2:50p xTAPS 29102/MUSI 24509

TU/TH

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

30960. The History of History **DASTON, Lorraine** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xHIST 45201

THU **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.

31200. The Odyssey and the Epic Tradition **SLATKIN, Laura** 1:30-4:20p F 305 xCLAS 44700

M/W **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.

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

31710. Machiavelli's The Prince and Discourses **TARCOV, Nathan** 3:00-4:20p F 505 xPLSC 20800 & 32100/

M/W 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 F305 xANTH 38414

TH **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 on a 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 S 106 xDVPR 33500/PHIL 33500

M

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.)

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34700. Hindu Mythology **DONIGER, Wendy** 1:30-2:50p S 208 xHREL 34700/RLST 26100/
W/FR 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: Libro de Buen Amor and Celestina **NIRENBERG, David & GILES, Ryan** 1:30-4:20p F 305 XSPAN 28100 & 38100/
FR 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 xPHIL 37313/PLSC 37313/
M/W 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 xTHEO 44001
FR

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 xGRMN 36111
TU

This seminar is an attempt to understand Schiller's treatise *Über naive 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** **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.

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50006. Pascal and Philosophy **CARRAUD, Vincent** 3-5:50pm xDVPR 50006
W

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 exercises", and their failure as addressed 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 hermetics 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

Pensées, ed. P. Sellier, Paris, Garnier, 1991 = ed. and tr. R. Ariew, Indianapolis / Cambridge, Hackett, 2005.

51901. Topics from Anscombe **MUELLER, Anselm** 10:30a-1:20p STU 209 xPHIL 51490
TH

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 ostensive 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.

52000. WKSHP: Political Theory **HARCOURT, Bernard** 12-1:20p P 506 xPLSC 520000
M

54602. Heidegger on Presence and the Thing **MARION, Jean-Luc** 3:00-5:50p S 106 xDVPR 52601/PHI 52601
TU

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 Aufsätze* (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.**

55650. What is poetical philosophy? **KIMHI, Irad** 1:30-4:20p F 505 xPHIL 55650
TH **Graduate Seminar**

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

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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.

We shall read selections from: Plato, Aristotle, Philo and Church Fathers, Dante, Shakespeare, Vico, Kant and German Romanticism, Freud and Lacan, Wallace Stevens.

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.