

Committee on Social Thought **SPRING 2012** Course Schedule --- 1

25701. Hamlet **KIMHI, Irad** 1:30-2:50p F 305 xPHIL 21211/FNDL 23513
T/R Undergrad course

Hamlet is probably the most famous character in world literature and thus also its most famous philosophy student. Consequently he speaks with a certain authority when he says: "There are more things under heaven and earth, Horatio/than are dreamt of in your philosophy." The aim of our reading of the play will be to see to illuminate the meaning of this "more" – a something further e.g., a dream, a ghost, a play, which does not lie beyond the world, but within it, "in heaven and earth".

30651. On Acquaintance **TAMEN, Miguel** 3-5:50p Wb207 xPORT 33412/CMLT 33412
W **PQ: Reading in English. Ugrads by consent.**

The poet Philip Larkin once stated: "I hve never been to America, nor to anywhere else, for that matter." Unlike him, most people believe that there are advantages to going to places, witnessing events, or meeting people. The topic occurs often in matters of art, philosophy, anthropology, and, not least, history: is, for instance, acquaintance required for knowledge or understanding? Is acquaintance required by truth? The class will mainly discuss three very different books that will help us describe the problem: Claude Lévi-Strauss's *Tristes tropiques* (an anthropological memoir of a series of travels in South and Central America and India), Marie Vassiltchikov's *Berlin Diaries 1940-1945* (a description of the fall of the Third Reich from the viewpoint of a minor clerk in the German Foreign Office, with a double life), and Céleste Albarét's *Monsieur Proust* (a memoir of the novelist Marcel Proust by his housekeeper). All texts will be read in English.

30921. Naturalism **DASTON, Lorraine** 3-5:50p F 305 xHIST 42602_
R **Registration by consent only for all.**

Naturalism has been a strategy of explanation in science and medicine, a philosophy of life that seeks guidance and solace outside of human society, a style of art and literature that aimed at a ruthlessly unsentimental view of the human condition, a religion without divinity. This seminar explores naturalism as a way of life through works of philosophy, science, literature, and art, including readings by Lucretius, Montaigne, Darwin, and Nietzsche.

31221. Antigone **SLATKIN, Laura** 11:30a-2:20p F 305 xGREK 35808 & 45808
M/W Open to advanced ug by consent

Heroine or harridan? Political dissident or family loyalist? Harbinger of the free subject or captive of archaic gender norms? Speaking truth to power or preserving traditional privilege? Sophocles' *Antigone* has been good to think with since its first production in the fifth century BCE. From ancient commentators through Hegel to contemporary gender theorists like Judith Butler, readers have grappled with what Butler calls "Antigone's Claim." The play's exploration of gender, kinship, citizenship, law, resistance to authority, family vs. the state, and religion (among other issues) has proved especially compelling for modern thought. We will supplement our reading of the play with modern commentary grounded in literary interpretation and cultural poetics, as well as philosophy and political theory. Although no knowledge of Greek is required for this course, there will be assignment options for those who wish to do reading in Greek. Requirements: weekly readings; brief class presentation; final paper.

**32200. Religion, Sex and Politics in Ancient India:
The Kamasutra and the Arthashastra** **DONIGER, Wendy** 10:30-11:50a S 208 xHREL 32202/SALC 25703 &
T/R 35703

A study of the indebtedness of the *Kamasutra*, the ancient Indian text of erotic love, to the *Arthashastra*, the ancient Indian text of political science. We will read both texts carefully, side by side, and look for each in the other, considering the role of politics in the formulation of ideas about sex, and for the uses of sex in a textbook of political science. As both texts justify their often Machiavellian ethics by paying lip service (or more?) to religion (*dharma*), we will also keep an eye out for the ways in which both texts both manipulate myth and ritual and, on occasion, seem to show genuine concern, or at least uneasiness, about religion. Reading: The *Kamasutra*, translated by Wendy Doniger and Dushir Kakar. The *Arthashastra*, translations by Patrick Olivelle (in press) and by R.P. Kangle.

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- 32720. AnthroLit: World Poetry** **FRIEDRICH, Paul** 9:30a-12:20p H 101 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*.
- 33901. Introduction to Heidegger** **PIPPIN, Robert** 3-4:20p SS122 xPHIL 23409 & 33409/FNDL 23409
M/W **Undergrad crse open to Grads**
Please Note: Undergrads register in Sections 01-04 & Grad students enroll in Section 05.
- An introduction to the most important elements of Heidegger's philosophy, including: his account of the distinctness of human existence, his basic ontological theory, his account of Western modernity, his philosophy of art, and his relation to other philosophers, especially to Nietzsche. *Prior work in philosophy is advisable.*
- Section 01 – 9:30-10:20a Fridays in F 305
Section 02 – 10:30a-11:20a Fridays in F 305
Section 03 – 12:30-1:20p Fridays in F 305
Section 04 – 1:30-2:20p Fridays in F 305
Section 05 – graduate enrollment.
- 34201. Plotinus** **LEAR, Gabriel & PAYNE, Mark** 1:30-4:20P CL 21 xPHIL 25720 & 35720/FNDL 27906
W CLAS 36811/CLCV 26811
- We will read selections from the *Enneads* of Plotinus with an emphasis on the nature of beauty and its role in spiritual ascent. We will consider the relationship between spiritual vocation and the beauty of the world, the proper orientation to human embodiment as a condition for the successful pursuit of the contemplative life, and the power of language to communicate the ecstatic accomplishment of this life.
- 33905. Introduction to Phenomenology: Heidegger, Being and Time** **MARION, Jean-Luc** 3-5:50p S 106 xDVPR 31800/PHIL 33905
M
- Starting with Kant, focusing on Husserl and Heidegger, the course will check the different possible definitions of a phenomenon in late modern and contemporary philosophy.
- 37314. The Right of Politics and the Knowledge of the Philosopher: Rousseau's *On the Social Contract*** **MEIER, Heinrich** 10:30a-1:20p F 505 xPSCL 37314/FNDL 27907
M/W **This seminar will take place during the First five weeks of the quarter (March 26-April 25, 2012)**
- In this seminar I shall present a new reading of Rousseau's most famous work on politics. The tension between philosophy and politics is of central importance for Rousseau's political philosophy. In his *Social Contract* Rousseau delineates the foundations of the legitimate republic, the principles of political right, and the conditions of the happiness of the political life. By founding the well-ordered commonwealth in philosophy, the book determines the limits of politics and shows the right of philosophy.
I shall use the American edition of Rousseau's text by Roger Masters (St. Martin's Press, or *Collected Writings*) and the French edition by Robert Derathé (*Œuvres complètes*, Bibliothèque de la Pléiade).
- 49800. Reading Course: Non-Social Thought** **ARR** **ARR**
Open only to non-Social Thought Graduate Students: enter section from faculty list on web.

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49900. Reading Course: Social Thought

ARR

ARR

Open only to Social Thought students: enter section from faculty list on web.

50701. Shakespeare's Venetian Others

**NIRENBERG, David &
STRIER, Richard**

1:30-4:20p
W

xENGL 62610/HIST 64802/
Grad seminar RLIT 52600

This course will focus on the Jew and the Moor in Shakespeare. We will work in detail on the language, imagery, plot, themes, and structure of *The Merchant of Venice* and will also examine its sources and some other texts with which the play is in implicit dialogue, such as the epistles of Paul and the author of Hebrews, and Marlowe's *The Jew of Malta*. We will then move to a consideration of Othello. We will introduce some historical materials on usury, on the Mediterranean frontier with Islam, etc., in order to pose questions about the relationship between the representation of Jews and "Moors" in Shakespeare's Venetian plays and what historians (think they) know about the historical situation. We may also undertake some comparative gestures, considering Merchant in relation to Marx's "On the Jewish Question," or Othello in relation to "The Famous Ottoman," a play written by Shakespeare's Spanish contemporary, Lope de Vega. An oral report and a substantial final paper will be required.

51113. Thinking and Being: Part II

KIMHI, Irad

1:30-4:20p
W

F 505 xPHIL 51113
Grad course

This course is the second course in a two-course sequence to be offered by the instructor. Students may take either the first half or the second half of the two-course sequence for credit or both. Students who wish to take only this second half of the sequence for credit must at least have already audited the first half of the sequence during the previous quarter. This course will involve a close examination of the merits and weaknesses of the philosophical arguments and conceptions discussed in the second half of the instructor's unpublished book manuscript *Thinking and Being*. The focus in this quarter will be on the limitations of a post-Fregean understanding of the relation between the logical and the psychological and the relative strengths of a philosophical position which refuses to accord priority either to the logical or the psychological in an account of the nature of thought, while at the same time refusing any form of sharp dualism between the logical and the psychological. We will be especially concerned to examine Frege's distinction between the force and the content of the judgment and subsequent understandings within the analytic tradition of the role that that distinction ought to play in a proper account of the relation between the psychical and logical aspects of thought. In this connection we will also take a critical look at the work of Peter Geach and his elaboration of what has come to be known as "the Frege/Geach point". There will be accompanying readings drawn from a variety of relevant primary texts in the history of early analytic philosophy, especially selections from Frege, but also from Russell and early Wittgenstein, along with a variety of secondary texts on those selections, including articles by McDowell, Palmer, Ricketts, Tashek, and Wiggins, as well as related writings on the nature of logic and the history of philosophical thought about it, including selected work by Robert Brandom, Lewis Carroll, Wilfrid Sellars, Peter Strawson, and Jean Van Heijenoort. The seminar will also look back at some of the primary readings from and secondary readings on Plato and Aristotle discussed in the previous quarter in order to reassess their significance in the light of this quarter's examination of the assumptions and shortcomings of a post-Fregean conception of the relation between the logical and the psychological.

51800. The Paradox of Rights

MENKE, Christoph

1:30-4:20p
T

F 505 xPHIL 51831/GRMN 51812
Grad Course

The form of "individual rights" ("subjective Rechte") is the distinctive feature of modern legal, and in a broader sense normative orders. It develops out of the tradition of Roman Law by breaking with its most fundamental assumption of a conceptual and normative alliance between law and ethics. The importance of the idea of a "right" lies in a reflective rearrangement of the relation between the social and the natural: by its very form, "rights guarantee an inner-social space to the non-social ("natural" freedom or "interests"). Rights are thereby the form of a revolutionary break in the history of Western societies which is deeply ambivalent. As Max Weber has claimed, rights are paradoxical: they are instruments of liberation which establish new and even more intense forms of social domination. This paradox of rights can be studied by exploring how they establish the dualisms that are at the centre of modern political, legal, and social thought: the dualisms of state and (civil or bourgeois) society, of democracy and capitalism, of the individual and community, of nature and society, and so on.

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While the form of rights remains unanalyzed in contemporary liberalism (which takes it for granted and thereby neutralizes or naturalizes it), it has been a central topic of the thinking of modernity in philosophy and legal theory since the late 18th century. The seminar will explore this tradition by reading texts by Kant, Hegel, von Savigny, Constant, Mill, Marx, Weber, Jellinek, Schmitt, Benjamin, Luhmann, Habermas, Derrida, Ewald, Brown.

53415. Logos, Reason and philosophy according to Justin and Other Apostolic Fathers **MARION, Jean-Luc** 3-5:50p S 106 xDVPR 54300/PHIL 53415
T

Unlike the distinction most widely admitted by modern contemporary authors, the early Christian Fathers claimed that followers of Christ, that is the Logos made man among us, are philosophers, or at least, play among non-Greeks, the role played by philosophers among Greeks. This identification of Christian faith to rationality and philosophy remained dominant at least to Origen. Starting from Justin, philosopher and martyr, the inquiry will follow up this tradition up to Irenaeus.

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

55504. Psychoanalysis and Ethics **LEAR, Jonathan & VOGLER, Candace** 1:30-4:20p F 505 xPHIL 58200
M **By consent only**

This research seminar begins from a point about the power of moral and ethical considerations in our lives: if you convince people that they are unethical or otherwise morally bad, you have done them a kind of damage much worse than you do if you take their money or break their bones, and much worse than if you convince them that they are ugly, or dim, or irrational. People can adjust to being unattractive. They can adjust to being less than reasonable or smart. But once they think that they are bad, it becomes very difficult for them to so much as take in any positive messages you have to give them about themselves. They can grow mean. They can become so abject that they lack even capacity to want more for themselves than what they have got so far. This in turn suggests that the varieties of personal inadequacy marked by winding up on the wrong side of a good/bad divide in the assessment of human beings, human action, and human life more generally are crucial to understanding human flourishing. In this seminar, we will turn to psychoanalytic work to account for this aspect of the place of ethical or moral assessment in human life. Although Sigmund Freud notoriously distanced psychoanalytic work from specific concern with morality, in working from and against Freud, both Jacques Lacan and Melanie Klein developed accounts of mental life that turn on how the mind copes with anxiety triggered in brushes against the good/bad divide. We will explore psychoanalytic work with an eye toward developing a philosophical moral psychology centered on the role of ethical or moral assessment of human beings, human life, and human conduct in mental functioning. We hope thereby to provide theoretical underpinnings for our starting observation about the power of moral and ethical considerations. *Admission requires consent of instructors.*

59200. WKSHP: Literature & Philosophy **MALINOWSKA, Agnes & SUBIALKA, Michael** 4:30-6:00p F 305 xPHIL 59200
TH (every other Thursday even numbered weeks 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.