**Course Descriptions**

**Fall 2017**

**Seminar in Continental Philosophy – The Philosophy of Gilles Deleuze**

PHIL 7030/8030

Mary Beth Mader

R 2:30-5:30

<Theoretical>

**Course Description.** Although he wrote on many subfields within philosophy, Gilles Deleuze (1925-1975) said of himself that: “I feel myself to be a pure metaphysician . . . Bergson says that modern science hasn't found its metaphysics, the metaphysics it would need. It is this metaphysics that interests me.” (Villani 1999: 130)[[1]](#footnote-1) In his very last work, he writes: “Nothing positive is done, nothing at all, in the domains of either criticism or history, when we are content to brandish ready-made old concepts like skeletons intended to intimidate any creation, without seeing that the ancient philosophers from whom we borrow them were already doing what we would like to prevent modern philosophers from doing: they were creating their concepts, and they were not happy just to clean and scrape bones like the critic and historian of our time. Even the history of philosophy is completely without interest if it does not undertake to awaken a dormant concept and to play it again on a new stage, even if this comes at the price of turning it against itself.” (*Qu’est-ce que la philosophie?* [1991], 81/*What is Philosophy?*, 83)

The chief task of the seminar is oriented by those two claims: it will investigate Deleuze’s philosophical metaphysics in relation to his readings of the history of Western philosophy (whether or not we ourselves endorse the second claim).

After a general introduction to Deleuze’s project, our focus will be on his readings and uses of figures from the history of Western philosophy: Plato, Aristotle, Medieval European Philosophers, Spinoza, Kant, Nietzsche, and Bergson. Once we have established a general understanding of Deleuze’s metaphysics in the context of the history of philosophy, we investigate the relation of this metaphysics to Deleuze’s thought on linguistics, psychoanalysis and science.

**Course Requirements.** The written requirement is one 16-page seminar paper. Students will also make two 10-15 minute presentations: one presentation of the seminar paper on the last class day, and one presentation on course material during the semester. Active participation in seminar discussion is required. Summer reading will be required. The summer reading list will be distributed in mid-May; I’ll try to make most summer readings available on UM Drive.

**Seminar in Normative Philosophy: Collective Responsibility**

**PHIL 7040/8040**

**Deborah Tollefsen**

**Monday 2:30-5:30**

**<Practical>**

**Collective Responsibility**

The purpose of this course is to investigate two dovetailing issues in collective morality: the agency of collectives, and the distribution of responsibility in collectives. The metaphysical and moral problems of collective action are typically construed as consisting in a tension between the individual and the collective. In the first half of the course, we will investigate whether collectives qua collectives are the proper bearers of morally relevant non-moral properties such as intentions, as well as moral properties, such as culpability and liability. In the second half of the course, we will investigate whether and to what degree individual members of a collective can be morally responsible for harms caused by the collective. We will also investigate whether individuals can bear responsibility for collectively committed wrongs to which those individuals did not contribute at all. We will end by considering the responsibility that an unorganized collective bears for wrongs that its members are in a position to prevent.

Texts:

French, Peter and Howard Wettstein (eds) *Shared Intentions and Collective Responsibility*, vol. 30 Midwest Studies in Philosophy. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/misp.2006.30.issue-1/issuetoc>

French, Peter and Howard Wettstein (eds) *Forward-Looking Collective Responsibility,* vol. 38 Midwest Studies in Philosophy. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/misp.2014.38.issue-1/issuetoc>

Various other articles will be posted on Ecourseware.

Requirements:

* Class presentation
* Class participation
* Substantive Research paper

**Seminar in Classical Issues: Ancient Philosophy of Mind**

**PHIL 7201/8201**

**Tim Roche**

**T 2:30-5:30**

**<History>**

An examination of the key theories of the soul (and mind) to emerge during the period of ancient philosophy from the early 6th century B.C.E. through the Hellenistic period ending around 30 B.C.E. The course will concentrate on the Platonic, Aristotelian, Stoic, and Epicurean theories of soul/mind, including arguments for and against the soul’s immortality, accounts of the relation between soul and body, the natures of perception, imagination, and emotion, and theories about the nature of the mind and the activity of thinking.

**Course Requirements**

Regular attendance, class participation, a midterm paper or class presentation, and a final research paper.

**Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy -- Embodiment and Psychopathology  
PHIL 7203/8203  
Shaun Gallagher and Somogy Varga  
M 5:30-8:30  
<Theoretical>**  
Notions of embodiment and embodied experience, informed by phenomenology, psychology and the cognitive sciences have been challenging standard approaches in psychiatry. In this seminar we will explore the philosophical implications of various embodied approaches to psychopathology. We'll discuss disorders such as autism, schizophrenia, depression, and a variety of body-related disorders, such as anorexia and body dysmorphic disorder; various approaches to diagnostic and therapeutic practices based on, for example, the DSM-V, the Copenhagen School of Phenomenological Psychiatry, Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy,  Body-Psychotherapy and Deep Brain Stimulation.

**Course Requirements**

Regular attendance, class participation, class presentations, and a final research paper.

**Cognitive Science Seminar**

**PHIL 7514/8514**

**W 2:20-5:20**

**Course Details TBA**

1. Villani, Arnaud, 1999. *La guêpe et l'orchidée: Essai sur Gilles Deleuze*, Paris: Belin. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)