

Graduate Course Descriptions

Fall 2011

Philosophy 6311, Studies in Modern Philosophy, Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (Aes/Anal) (History-Modern; Major Figure). Hoke Robinson

TEXTS:

Required:

I. Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, tr. Kemp Smith (St. Martin's), ISBN 1403911959

Alt 1: I. Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, tr. Guyer/Wood (Cambridge), ISBN 0521657296

Alt 2: I. Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, tr. Pluhar (Hackett), ISBN 0872202577

Recommended:

1. I. Kant, Prolegomena... tr. Carus/Beck (Bobbs-Merrill), ISBN 0672601877

2. H. Allison, Kant's Transcendental Idealism, 2nd Ed. (Yale) ISBN 0300102666

3. A. Wood, Kant (Blackwell), ISBN 0631232826

A close study of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, focused on his "transcendental turn" in philosophy, and considering such key issues as the possibility of synthetic a priori knowledge, the ideality of space and time, the transcendental deduction and schematism of the categories, and the principles of pure understanding.

Philosophy 6441, Recent Continental Philosophy (Continental/Theoretical). Mary Beth Mader

In lecture and discussion format, this course will introduce students to several major thinkers in recent European philosophy through readings of primary sources.

The course readings are demanding, but in my view worth the effort required. We will spend most of our time on these philosophers and texts:

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*

Emmanuel Levinas - selected essays and interviews.

Jean-Francois Lyotard, *The Differend*

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Volume I*

Luce Irigaray, *An Ethics of Sexual Difference*

Requirements for written work:

Undergraduate students: 6 two-page essays, submitted on topics of student choice from weekly readings, and one final 8-page paper on an assigned topic.

Graduate students: one 16-page final paper on approved topic of student choice, or alternative assignment(s) by student petition.

For all final papers, students have the option of submitting a draft on an assigned date for review before re-submitting the revised final paper.

Requirements for spoken work: participation in discussion portion of the class sessions.

Philosophy 7020/8020, Seminar in Major Figures, Levinas: *Totality and Infinity* (Continental/Practical). Kas Saghafi

2011 is the 50th anniversary of the publication of this monumental text. Many conferences and events are scheduled to celebrate this anniversary. *Totality and Infinity*, published in 1961, is considered to be a major work in “ethics as first philosophy,” inaugurating and invigorating a new emphasis on ethics in European philosophy. This course will consist of a careful reading of this magnum opus, exploring its major themes such as the face, exteriority, alterity, transcendence, eros, fecundity, etc.

Philosophy 7030/8030, Seminar in Continental Philosophy, Intersubjectivity (Continental/Theoretical). Shaun Gallagher

Starting with Hegel we’ll look closely at discussions of intersubjectivity in 20th-century phenomenology and then, from an interdisciplinary perspective, we’ll examine the more recent debates about theory of mind, simulation, and interaction.

Philosophy 7201/8201, Seminar in Classical Philosophy, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (History-Ancient/Practical) Tim Roche

TEXTS:

Required:

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, 2nd. ed., tr. Terence Irwin (Hackett), ISBN 978-0-87220-464-5.

Alt: Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*, Sarah Broadie and Christopher Rowe (Oxford), ISBN 0-19-875271-7.

Students who read ancient Greek should also have the Oxford Classical Text (OCT): Aristotelis *Ethica Nicomachea*, I. Bywater ed. (Oxford) ISBN: 978-0-19-814-511-0.

Recommended:

TBA.

The course is an intensive study of the ten books of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. We consider Aristotle's conception of the highest good and his objections to the Platonic view of the good, his accounts of voluntary and involuntary action, decision, moral responsibility, moral and intellectual excellence, non-virtuous states of character (e.g., *akrasia* [weakness of will]), pleasure, friendship, politics, philosophy, and the nature and role of human *eudaimonia* (happiness, living well, doing well) in moral theory.

Philosophy 7421/8421, Seminar in Epistemology, Virtue Epistemology (Analytic/ Theoretical). Deb Tollefsen

Virtue epistemology, in its contemporary form, represents a unique approach to epistemology and epistemological questions of knowledge, justification, and testimony. There are broadly two commitments that unify diverse contemporary approaches to virtue epistemology: First, practitioners of virtue epistemology are committed to the view that epistemology is a normative discipline. To this extent they diverge from some forms of naturalized epistemology; second, contemporary virtue epistemology views epistemic agents and communities as the primary source of epistemic value and the primary focus of epistemic evaluation. To this extent the virtue epistemologist puts emphasis on the character of epistemic agents and on epistemic responsibility. This seminar will explore a number of different virtue epistemologies including the work of Linda Zagzebski, John Greco, Ernest Sosa, John McDowell, and Miranda Fricker. Each student will be responsible for leading a class discussion on one of the assigned readings. Each student will also be required to write and submit a substantive research paper.