Philosophy Department
Doctoral Courses
Fall 2014

PHI 600 Ancient Philosophy  P. Manchester
Monday 6:00-9:00
Topic: Presocratics

Description:
This course is an introduction to the earliest writings in ancient Greek philosophy, conventionally identified as ‘pre-Socratic’. That designation does not do justice to their importance or intrinsic philosophical interest. I will be using the subtitle “Heraclitus, Parmenides, Empedocles and the Vocation of Philosophy.” There is necessarily a degree of survey in such a course, and we will begin with the Milesians, the earliest writers identified by Aristotle as philosophers (Metaphysics Alpha). But our focus will be on Heraclitus and Parmenides, the first to integrate speculative logic with ontology, and Empedocles, a seminal figure in the move to material physics with which the Presocratic period closes. Required books are Kirk, Raven, and Schofield, eds., The Presocratic Philosophers (Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, 1983), the standard reference for both the Greek texts and reliable translations, and Charles H. Kahn, ed., The Art and Thought of Heraclitus (Cambridge University Press, 1981), the definitive edition of Heraclitus, with literary and philosophical commentary. I will be providing my own translation of the extant fragments of Parmenides. It is obviously not possible to make Greek a prerequisite, but it is also not possible to engage these writers without having patience for a considerable amount of discussion of the Greek texts. Making acquaintance with the Greek alphabet is strongly recommended. In addition to seminar participation, grading will be based on an in-class presentation and a semester paper.

PHI 602 Modern Philosophy  J. Edwards
Topic: Kant’s Critique of Judgment

Description:
This is a text seminar on Kant’s Critique of the Power of Judgment, structured as follows: (1) overview of Kant’s philosophy of nature and moral philosophy; (2) concepts of the purposiveness of nature; (3) explication of the published (i.e., the second) introduction to the Critique of Judgment; (4) discussion of the Analytic of the Beautiful (§§1-22) and the Deduction of Pure Aesthetic Judgment (§§30-54 & General Comment); (5) study of the Critique of Teleological Judgment (Analytic and Dialectic).

PHI 630 Continental Philosophy        E. Casey
Wednesday 6:30-9:30
Topic: Derrida Early and Late
Description:
The central importance of Jacques Derrida to contemporary continental philosophy is indisputable. His work has deeply affected not only this way of doing philosophy but other fields such as art theory, linguistics, psychoanalysis, literary criticism, legal studies, and political theory. In this seminar, we shall attempt to do justice to selected phases of Derrida’s dauntingly prolific career – those phases of greatest philosophical challenge and import in the wake of his death ten years ago. Focused readings of selected texts from (roughly) the first and the last decade of his career will provide the backbone of this seminar. These texts are likely to include all or part of the following books:

From Derrida’s early work: *Voice and Phenomena*, *On Grammatology* (selected parts), *Positions*, and *Margins of Philosophy* (selected essays)


Among various major themes to be considered are these: the critique of phonocentrism and the metaphysics of presence; the trace and primacy of proto-writing; giving and the gift; unconditional hospitality; auto-immunity in political life; flesh and touching; the death penalty. Fields at stake will range from linguistics to psychoanalysis, ethics to politics, epistemology to metaphysics. Figures to be considered in light of Derrida’s relationship with them will be Descartes, Hegel, de Saussure, Husserl, Heidegger, Foucault, Freud, Lacan, Levinas, and Nancy.

Jacob Rogozinski, author of *The Ego and the Flesh* and other books, will be distinguished guest in the seminar for two weeks in November. He will lead discussions on his conception of flesh vis-a-vis that of Merleau-Ponty, Nancy, Irigaray, and Derrida.

Enrolled students will be asked to report to the class on an essay or a part of a book by Derrida that is not on the official reading list, and every student will be encouraged to develop a research direction that embodies existing or new interests on their own in the light of Derridean thought. The aim overall is to gain a modest mastery of primary works by Derrida while employing these works in the pursuit of projects he himself did not undertake.

One class report; two papers of 12 pages each or one term paper of 20 – 25 pages.

PHI 631 Seminar in Analytic Philosophy
Monday 1:00-4:00
Topic: Freedom of the Will
Description:
The goal of this seminar is to develop a coherent (though not complete) theory of incarnate existence in three movements. Using perception as our guiding threat, we begin with a phenomenology of the surface structure of intentionality that discovers a chiastic proto-self and the first sense in which the lived-body “stages” conscious experience. This invites an inquiry into the deep structure of intentionality and the issue of whether we can discover consciousness not simply as in-bodied but bodily and, with this, the sense in which the ego is flesh. The third movements will shift from the theory of the self to the person and use the generation of values to probe the ethical and spiritual dimensions of our all too human existence.

In November we will be graced by the visits of Jacob Rogozinski, professor of philosophy at Strasbourg, who will lead two sessions of our seminar, and Theo Leydenbach, professor of psychosomatic medicine at Paris VI, who will present a case study. Our readings will concentrate on selected texts from Husserl, Merleau-Ponty and Ricoeur and we will do a number of workshops on the newly published translation of Rogozinski’s *The Ego and the Flesh*.

### Texts
