

**STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY | FALL SEMESTER 2011**

**PHI 420 – PHILOSOPHIES OF DERRIDA | Prof. Hugh J. Silverman**

**Mondays 6:50 – 9:40 p.m. / Harriman Hall 118 (Solzberg Library)**

**Office: Harriman Hall 203 - Office Telephone: (631) 632-7592**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays - 3:00 - 5:00 and by appointment**



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**FOCUS:** For much of his career, the French philosopher Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) taught the History of Philosophy at the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris before he became Directeur d'Etudes at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes. Derrida was a careful reader of major philosophical texts from Plato to his contemporaries. For this advanced undergraduate course, we shall focus on Derrida's readings of recent European philosophers, including Husserl, Heidegger, de Saussure, Nietzsche, Freud, Lacan, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Levinas, and Nancy. Through these accounts of other figures, Derrida elaborates not only his own philosophical strategies and deconstructive writing, but also the philosophies of these recent continental philosophers.

**PURPOSE:** Designed as an in-depth introduction to Contemporary European Philosophy and to continental philosophy as a way of doing philosophy, this course will focus on those theoretical writings of Jacques Derrida that are concerned with major European philosophers of the 19th and 20th centuries.

**PREREQUISITES:** U4 standing or five courses in philosophy.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Each student will be expected to attend class regularly. We meet once a week. This means that students will need to read the assigned texts throughout the week (and not just before class each week).

Each student is to write three papers (about 5-7 pages in length). Each paper should focus on how Derrida reads a particular philosopher, what strategies he uses to provide that reading, and how it is a "deconstruction" of the texts in question. The paper should focus on a specific topic or theme (and not attempt to account for all of Derrida's writings on the philosophy in question). Each paper should be on a different philosopher.

Also each member of the seminar will prepare a protocol for one of the seminar sessions. The person responsible for a particular week will write up an account of what transpired in class the previous week and will make a copy available to each of the members of the seminar prior to the beginning of class. The protocol for a particular week will be discussed at the outset of the seminar. This will give everyone an opportunity to review what transpired during the previous session and to raise any lingering issues or topics that were not sufficiently treated when first presented. It will also be a lasting document for the seminar participants.

**GRADING:** The three papers will each count 30%. The additional 10% will result from the quality (not quantity) of class participation and attendance. Each student will be expected to read the material assigned for the indicated date and come prepared to discuss the texts in class.

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**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

**Academic Integrity:**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

**Critical Incident Management:**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

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CODES	TEXT	AUTHOR/EDITOR
DERRIDA READER	A DERRIDA READER (Columbia U Press)	Ed. Peggy Kamuf
MARGINS	MARGINS OF PHILOSOPHY (U Chicago Press)	Jacques Derrida
PSYCHE	PSYCHE II: INVENTIONS OF THE OTHER	Jacques Derrida
MOURNING	THE WORK OF MOURNING	Jacques Derrida
D&D	DERRIDA AND DECONSTRUCTION (Routledge)	Hugh J. Silverman, ed
TEXTUALITIES	TEXTUALITIES: BETWEEN HERMENEUTICS AND DECONSTRUCTION (Routledge)	Hugh J. Silverman

First day of classes cancelled due to Hurricane Irene and no class on Labor Day.

DATE	TOPIC	READING	CH	TEXT	PUB. DATE	PROTOCOL: Student Name
Sept 12 + 19	INTRODUCTION <Derrida and Deconstruction>	DERRIDA READER / PSYCHE	CH. 12	"Letter to a Japanese Friend"	[1987]	
		MARGINS	CH. 3	"Difference" (full version in MARGINS)	[1968]	
		TEXTUALITIES*	CH. 1-5			
Sept 19 + 26	DERRIDA AND HUSSERL <On Signs, Meaning, and Expression>	SPEECH AND PHENOMENA		SPEECH AND PHENOMENA	[1967]	
		MARGINS		"Form and Meaning"	[1967]	
		D & D*	CH. 8	on Derrida's Husserl		
Oct 3	FIRST PAPER DUE					
Oct 3	DERRIDA AND HEIDEGGER <On Being, Time, and Writing>	DERRIDA READER	CH. 2	from OF GRAMMATOLOGY	[1967]	
		MARGINS		"Ousia and Gramme"	[1968]	
		D & D*	CH. 9	on Derrida's Heidegger		
Oct 10	DERRIDA AND HEIDEGGER	OF SPIRIT: HEIDEGGER		OF SPIRIT	[1987]	

	<On Being, Spirit, and Phantoms>	AND THE QUESTION				
Oct 17 + 24	DERRIDA AND HEIDEGGER <On Race, Gender, Type, Species>	GESCHLECHT 1-4				
		DERRIDA READER	CH. 16	from "Geschlecht"	[1987]	
		PSYCHE II: INVENTIONS OF THE OTHER		"Geschlecht 1&2"	[1983-1985]	
		POLITICS OF FRIENDSHIP		"Geschlecht 3" (handout) "Geschlecht 4"		
Oct 31	DERRIDA AND NIETZSCHE / HEIDEGGER <On Style, Truth, and Sexual Difference>	SPURS: NIETZSCHE'S STYLES		SPURS: NIETZSCHE'S STYLES	[1974]	
		DERRIDA READER	CH. 18	from "Choreographies"	[1982]	
		D & D*		on Derrida's Nietzsche		
Oct 31	SECOND PAPER DUE					
Nov. 7	DERRIDA AND SEMIOLOGY ( DE SAUSSURE ET AL.) <On Signs, Meaning and Difference>	MARGINS		"The Pit and the Pyramid: Hegel's Semiology" "The Supplement of Copula"	[1968 + 1971]	
		MOURNING		Roland Barthes Louis Marin Michel Foucault Jean-Francois Lyotard	[2001]	
Nov. 14	DERRIDA AND PSYCHOANALYSIS: FREUD / LACAN <On Legacies and the Letter>	DERRIDA READER	CH. 21	"To Speculate -- On Freud"	[1980]	
		"	CH. 19	from "Le Facteur de la verite"	[1980]	
		"	CH 20	from "Envois"	[1980]	
		D & D*	CH.	on Derrida's Freud		

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Nov. 21	DERRIDA AND LEVINAS <i>&lt;On Time, Place, and Identity&gt;</i>	DERRIDA READER	CH. 17	from "At this Very Moment..."	[1987]	
Nov. 28	THIRD PAPER DUE					
Nov. 28	DERRIDA AND LEVINAS <i>&lt;On Hospitality and the Ethics of the Other&gt;</i>	ADIEU TO EMMANUEL LEVINAS		ADIEU: TO EMMANUEL LEVINAS	[1997]	
		D & D*	CH. 11	on Derrida's Levinas		
Dec. 5	DERRIDA, MERLEAU-PONTY, AND NANCY <i>&lt;On Touching and Embodiment&gt;</i>	ON TOUCHING--JEAN-LUC NANCY		Selections to be announced	[2000]	
Dec. 12	DERRIDA, MERLEAU-PONTY, AND NANCY <i>&lt;On Touching and the Body&gt;</i>	ON TOUCHING--JEAN-LUC NANCY		Selections to be announced		

<b>TEXTS FOR PHI 420</b>	Prof. Hugh J. Silverman	
<b>REQUIRED:</b>		
Derrida, Jacques	A Derrida Reader: Between the Blinds	Columbia University Press
Derrida, Jacques	Margins of Philosophy	University of Chicago Press
Derrida, Jacques	Speech and Phenomena	Northwestern University Press
Derrida, Jacques	Of Spirit : Heidegger and the Question	University of Chicago Press
Derrida, Jacques	Psyche II: Inventions of the Other	Stanford University Press
Derrida, Jacques	Spurs : Nietzsche's Styles / Eperons: Les Styles de Nietzsche	University of Chicago Press
Derrida, Jacques	The Work of Mourning	University of Chicago Press
Derrida, Jacques	Adieu to Emmanuel Levinas	Stanford University Press
Derrida, Jacques	On Touching – Jean-luc Nancy	Stanford University Press
<b>RECOMMENDED:</b>		
Derrida, Jacques	Positions	University of Chicago Press
Silverman, Hugh J. (ed)	Derrida and Deconstruction	Routledge
Silverman, Hugh J.	Textualities: Between Hermeneutics and Deconstruction	Routledge
Derrida, Jacques / Geoffrey Bennington	Jacques Derrida (Circumfessions)	University of Chicago Press
Derrida, Jacques	Politics of Friendship	Verso