

PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

PHI 2800-001

SPRING 2010

INSTRUCTOR: GABRIEL ROCKHILL

Time: TR 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Location: TBA

Status: Writing Enriched

Office Hours: TBA (St. Augustine Center, office 171)

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OVERVIEW

This course examines the historical development and transformation of the relationship between philosophy and history. We begin by analyzing philosophy in the era of chronology, prior to the massive historicization of philosophic practice around the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries. We then concentrate on the fundamental changes that occurred in philosophic practice through the course of this transformation. These changes were linked to what historians have called the *modern regime of historicity* or a novel conception of historical time as a linear process of development in which the past becomes autonomous and the future is transformed into an open horizon of possibility. It is within the modern regime of historicity that the 19th-century utopian philosophical and political projects developed, and it is to these that we will turn our attention in the third section of the course. We will then concentrate on how these projects have played themselves out in the historical conjuncture that is our own, by examining and evaluating various categories used to frame our current era (the “end of history,” the “exhaustion of utopia,” the “age of crisis,” etc.).

Students should come away from the class with an understanding of some of the central debates in historiography, the major “logics of history” that have been used to understand the past, and a set of conceptual tools for situating our present situation within the broader frame of history. In addition to being a philosophy class that introduces the thought of some of the major figures in the Western tradition (Descartes, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Gramsci, Arendt, Foucault), this course also draws on the work of historians (Koselleck, Ziolkowski), sociologists (Wallerstein) and political scientists (Fukuyama) in order to provide students with an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective on the historical transformations of the world that we are living in.

REQUIRED MATERIAL

You are free to use other copies of the books listed below or photocopy the relevant sections (depending on the length). However, these are the editions that will be referenced in class.

1. Hannah Arendt. *Between Past and Future*. New York: Penguin books, 1968.
2. G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*. Trans. T.M. Knox and A.V. Miller. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987.

3. Ed. David McLellan, *Marxism: Essential Writings*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.
4. Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: Avon books, 1992.
5. Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*. New York: Columbia, 2004.
6. Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2004.
7. Immanuel Wallerstein. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2004.
8. *Optional Book*: Vaughn, Lewis. *Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
9. Essays and articles will be made available to you electronically and placed on reserve in the library. **It is required that you print or photocopy them so that you can bring them to every class.** It is highly recommended that you collect them all together in a binder so that you have all of the course readings in one place.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and Participation – 15%.** The class will be conducted as a seminar so it will be very important for you to come to class having engaged with the required material. This means *taking notes* on the readings, *preparing informed questions* and comments, and *re-reading the material* after class discussion. A cursory, passive overview of the material will prove insufficient. In addition, you should make sure that you organize your time wisely since some sessions will require more out-of-class work than others.
2. **Response Papers – 20%.** This class is **Writing Enriched**. You will be required to write **thirteen one-page response papers** (one per week except for when part of the week is lost due to Easter recess) that respond to and critically engage with the material. You should outline the core argument in the reading, relate this argument to key issues in the course, and raise questions or highlight passages for discussion. It is a good idea to make explicit references to the texts and clearly indicate the page numbers of any quotes.
 Unlike the “graded response papers” (see below), your grade for the response papers will be calculated based on the number of papers you complete and turn in **on time**. This means that you will not receive individual grades on each of the papers. Instead, you will receive a proportional grade based on the number of papers you successfully complete (13 out of 13 = 100% (A), 12/13 = 92.3% (A-), 11/13 = 84.6% (B), etc.). However, since you will not know in advance which assignments will be graded, it is highly recommended that you prepare each response paper as if you were handing it in for a grade. Moreover, we will use the response papers for various in-class exercises (peer-review, in-class discussion and assessment, etc.). It is also recommended that you make use of the Villanova Writing Center for your response papers, particularly at the beginning of the semester (please turn in your Writing Center form with your paper). You can use their pamphlet *How to Write a College Paper* as a useful starting point.
3. **Graded Response Papers – 30%.** **Two of your thirteen response papers will be graded and rewritten for a final grade** (you will not know in advance which papers will be graded). For the first graded paper, you will be required to visit the Villanova Writing Center in order to improve the final version of your response paper. For the

second graded paper, you will be required to rewrite your paper based on my comments. This is a **Writing Enriched** course and students will be expected to perfect their writing skills through the course of the semester. For the final grade on these two papers, you will be required to turn in your original paper with comments, supporting evidence of your visit to the Writing Center (for the first paper), other intermediate drafts and your final paper.

4. **Final Exam – 35%.** A **comprehensive** final exam will be scheduled at the end of the semester. I will provide you with guidelines and study hints in advance of the exam. The best way to ensure a solid performance on your final exam is to take detailed course notes, spend ample time on your response papers, and take notes on the readings. With the exception of students with disabilities that require alternative test-taking arrangements or other university approved exceptions, all tests must be taken in class at the day and time listed on the syllabus. No other make-up tests will be administered.

POLICY ON E-MAILS AND COMPUTER USE

1. I will try to respond to all e-mails in a reasonable time frame. As a general rule of thumb, this means that you will get a response within 24 to 48 hours. If you send an email over the weekend or late at night, do not expect to receive a response back immediately, even if you deem it to be an emergency.
2. I will **not grant extensions via e-mail**. If you have a last-second problem printing your response paper, print it after class and drop it in my box before 7 p.m. that day (see “Policy on Grade Changes” below).
3. In general, I will not provide my lecture notes or other material that you could have obtained in class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain this material.
4. I will not provide information already available in the syllabus via e-mail.
5. Please do not take offense to laconic e-mails since I find it preferable to respond to as many e-mails as possible within the shortest amount of time.
6. **No computers** will be allowed in the classroom unless you obtain explicit consent from me.

POLICY ON GRADE CHANGES, LATE WORK AND ABSENCES

1. I will not change grades based on oral negotiation. If you feel that I have overlooked something in my grading policy, please submit a detailed written explanation of what has been overlooked along with the graded copy of your work.
2. **No late work will be accepted.** Rather than looking behind in class, you should plan on looking ahead and catching up on future assignments any points you may have lost on past assignments. You will only be able to make up for late work in the most extreme cases, and preferably when you have let me know ahead of time that you have a serious extra-curricular problem. Since a “lost paper” does not constitute a valid excuse in the computer age, **always back up your work**. If you have problems printing at the last second, you should plan on **printing the paper immediately after class** so that you can place it in my mailbox in the philosophy office before 7 p.m. the same day (**do not e-mail me the paper**). You have the right to turn in two—and only two—papers like this through the course of the semester.
3. If you absolutely have to miss class, **make arrangements to turn in the paper ahead of time or ask a friend to turn it in for you.**

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

Any form of plagiarism is unacceptable. This includes, but is not limited to, referencing or paraphrasing someone else's ideas without proper citation as well as handing in someone else's work as your own. This also includes using any part of an Internet resource without proper citation. Any assignment that is at all plagiarized will automatically receive an F and, depending on the circumstances, may constitute grounds for failing the course. Moreover, every incident will be reported to the university and could constitute grounds for expulsion. For a good list of resources on what counts as plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarizing see <http://directory.google.com/Top/Reference/Education/Educators/Plagiarism/Prevention/>

You should be aware of the fact that not all of the information on the Internet is equally accurate. This is why I strongly encourage library research over Internet research and require that you do most of your work in the library. Of course, you should also be wary of the quality of published sources and try to get a feel for what is reliable (based on the author's name, the publisher, journals' reputations, etc.). If you have any questions regarding the quality of Internet or published resources, please contact me.

PROGRAM (subject to change)

Section 1: Tradition and History

- 1/12 Introduction
- 1/14 Hannah Arendt. *Between Past and Future*: Preface and "Tradition and the Modern Age."
- 1/19 Hannah Arendt. *Between Past and Future*: "The Concept of History: Ancient and Modern."
- 1/21 René Descartes. *The Search for Truth*.

Section 2: The Modern Regime of Historicity

- 1/26 Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*: "Author's Preface" and "Modernity and the Planes of Historicity."
- 1/28 Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*: "Historia Magistra Vitae."
- 2/2 Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse*: "Preface" and "History: *From Decoration to Discipline*."

Section 3: Philosophy's Historical Transformation

- 2/4 Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse*: "Philosophy."
Optional Reading: Kevin Mulligan. "Introduction: On the History of Continental Philosophy."
- 2/9 Immanuel Kant. "What Is Enlightenment?"
- 2/11 Michel Foucault. "What Is Enlightenment?"
- 2/16 Immanuel Kant. "What Is Enlightenment?" / Michel Foucault. "What Is Enlightenment?"
- 2/18 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.
- 2/23 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.

- 2/25 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.
 3/1-3/7 Semester Recess
 3/9 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.

Section 4: The Materialist Conception of History

- 3/11 Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*: “Historical Criteria of the Modern Concept of Revolution.”
 3/16 Hannah Arendt. “The Meaning of Revolution.”
 3/18 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Karl Marx, “The Materialist Concept of History.”
 3/23 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Karl Marx (and F. Engels), “The *Communist Manifesto*” and “The Destiny of Capitalism.”
 3/25 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Friedrich Engels, “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific,” “The Materialist Conception of History” and “Revolution: Peaceful or Violent?”
 3/30 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Vladimir Lenin, “The Proletarian Party,” “Revolution: Bourgeois or Proletarian?,” “Imperialism” and “The State and Revolution.”
 4/1-4/5 Easter Recess
 4/6 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Leon Trotsky, “The Prospect of Revolution” and “Permanent Revolution.”
 4/8 *Marxism: Essential Writings*: Antonio Gramsci, “Intellectuals and Hegemony,” “Revolution in the West,” and “The Culture of Marxism.”

Section 5: The Other End of History?

- 4/13 Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*: “By Way of Introduction,” Chapters 1 and 2.
 4/15 Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*: Chapters 3 and 4.
 4/20 Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*: Chapters 5 and 6.

Section 6: Who’s History? Crises and Chaos

- 4/22 Immanuel Wallerstein. *Introduction to World-Systems Analysis*: “Historical Origins of World-Systems Analysis: From Social Science Disciplines to Historical Social Sciences.”
 4/27 No class: Friday schedule
 4/29 Immanuel Wallerstein. *Introduction to World-Systems Analysis*: “The Modern World-System in Crisis: Bifurcation, Chaos, and Choices.”

FINAL EXAM