

THINKING THROUGH HISTORY

PENSER L'HISTOIRE

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE COLLÈGE INTERNATIONAL DE PHILOSOPHIE
PHI 8720-001
SPRING 2010
INSTRUCTOR: GABRIEL ROCKHILL

Time: T 5:30-8 p.m.

Location: TBA

Office Hours: T 1:30-2:30, R 5:15-6:15 or by appointment (SAC 171)

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OVERVIEW

This seminar examines the historical development and transformation of the relationship between philosophy and history. We begin by analyzing philosophy in the era 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 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 this new regime of historicity that the 19th-century utopian philosophical, aesthetic and political projects developed, and it is to these that we will turn our attention in the next 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 utopian energies,” the “end of illusions,” 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, Vico, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Arendt, Cassirer, 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 our world.

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. Giambattista Vico. *New Science*. Trans. David Marsh. New York: Penguin Books, 1999.
3. Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2004.
4. 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.
5. Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: Avon books, 1992.
6. Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*. New York: Columbia, 2004.
7. Immanuel Wallerstein. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 2004.
8. 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. **Exposé – 25%**. You will be asked to do a 10-minute presentation based on one of the texts listed in the “supplementary bibliography” for each meeting. The goal of the exposés is to relate the text in question, which is not required reading for the other students, to the major themes of the seminar. You should make sure that you present its major lines of argumentation in a concise and coherent manner, that you relate its central themes to other issues and readings in the course, and that you raise important questions for debate. You are free to choose any text in the “supplementary bibliography” as long as no one else has already chosen it, and you can focus your exposé on a work that is related to your final research project.
3. **Mid-Term Response Paper – 25%**. You will be expected to write a 4-page double-spaced mid-term response paper that critically responds to and engages with one of the readings in the first half of the semester. You will need to carefully re-read the text you choose and consult other relevant sources. The aim of this exercise is to have you succinctly present a core theme or issue and carefully work through its implications via rigorous philosophical argumentation and precise textual analysis. You can choose any of the required readings from the first half of the semester, and your paper is due on February 22nd.
4. **Final Paper – 35%**. You will be required to write one 12-15-page double-spaced research paper. I will discuss the topic in class and provide you with guidelines. I strongly encourage you to respect the deadline (5/15) and will not provide feedback on papers turned in after this date unless it is due to extreme circumstances.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

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.

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 e-mail 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. 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.
3. No computers will be allowed in the classroom unless you obtain explicit consent.

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. 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.

PROGRAM (subject to change)

Section 1: Tradition and History

1/11 Introduction

1/18 Hannah Arendt. *Between Past and Future*: Preface, "Tradition and the Modern Age" and "The Concept of History: Ancient and Modern."

Supplementary Bibliography

Hannah Arendt. *Between Past and Future* (other essays).

Lucien Braun. *Histoire de l'histoire de la philosophie*.

Francisco Sanches. *That Nothing Is Known (Quod nihil scitur)*.

1/25 Albert Wright Levi. *Philosophy as Social Expression*: Chapter 4 ("Modern Philosophy: The Age of the Gentleman").

René Descartes. *The Search for Truth*.

Supplementary Bibliography

François Azouvi. *Descartes et la France: Histoire d'une passion nationale*.

John Cottingham. *Descartes*.

René Descartes (any of the major or minor works).

Albert Wright Levi. *Philosophy as Social Expression* (other essays).

Section 2: Historical Changes in the Enlightenment

- 2/1 Anthony Grafton's "Introduction" to Giambattista Vico's *New Science*.
Giambattista Vico. *New Science* (selection).
Supplementary Bibliography
Norman Hampson. *The Enlightenment*.
Reinhardt Koselleck. *Critique and Crises: Enlightenment and the Pathogenesis of Modern Society*.
Giambattista Vico. *New Science* (other chapters).
- 2/8 Giambattista Vico. *New Science* (selection).
Ernst Cassirer. *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment*: "The Conquest of the Historical World."
Supplementary Bibliography
Giambattista Vico. *New Science* (other chapters).
Ernst Cassirer. *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment* (other chapters).
Jürgen Habermas. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Men*.
- 2/15 Immanuel Kant. "What Is Enlightenment?"
Michel Foucault. "What Is Enlightenment?"
Supplementary Bibliography
Immanuel Kant. *On History* (other essays).
Michel Foucault (any essays/interviews on the Enlightenment).
Michel Foucault. *The Order of Things*.
Jürgen Habermas. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*.

Section 3: The Modern Regime of Historicity

- 2/22 Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*: "Author's Preface," "Modernity and the Planes of Historicity," "Historia Magistra Vitae," "Historical Prognosis in Lorenz Von Stein's Essay on the Prussian Constitution," "History, Histories, and Formal Time Structures," "Perspective and Temporality."
Supplementary Bibliography
Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past* (other essays not read for class).
Georges Gusdorf. *Introduction aux sciences humaines: Essai critique sur leurs origines et leur développement*.
François Hartog. *Régimes d'historicité: Présentisme et expériences du temps*.
Friedrich Meinecke. *Historicism: The Rise of a New Historical Outlook*.
Jacques Rancière. *Names of History: On the Poetics of Knowledge*.

Mid-term response paper due

Section 4: Philosophy's Historical Transformation

- 3/8 Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse*: "Preface," "History: From Decoration to Discipline" and "Philosophy."
G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.
Supplementary Bibliography
G.W.F. Hegel. *Phenomenology of Spirit*.
J.G. Herder. *Another Philosophy of History*.

Gabriel Rockhill. *Logique de l'histoire: Pour une analytique des pratiques philosophiques*.
Theodore Ziolkowski. *Clio the Romantic Muse* (other chapters).

- 3/15 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.
Supplementary Bibliography
Norbert Elias. *The Civilizing Process*.
Maurice Mandelbaum. *History, Man, & Reason: A Study in Nineteenth-Century Thought*.
Theodore Ziolkowski. *German Romanticism and Its Institutions*.
- 3/22 G.W.F. Hegel. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy*.
Supplementary Bibliography
Charles Darwin. *On the Origin of the Species*.
Loren Eiseley. *Darwin's Century. Evolution and the Men Who Discovered It*.
Loren Eiseley. *Darwin and the Mysterious Mr. X: New Light on the Evolutionists*.
Richard Rorty, J.-B. Schneewind, Quentin Skinner. *Philosophy in History: Essays on the Historiography of Philosophy*.

Section 5: The Time of Revolution

- 3/29 Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past*. "Historical Criteria of the Modern Concept of Revolution"
Hannah Arendt. "The Meaning of Revolution."
Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx, "Manifesto of the Communist Party."
Supplementary Bibliography
Hannah Arendt. *On Revolution* (other essays).
Reinhart Koselleck. *Futures Past* (other essays).
Thomas S. Kuhn. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.
Georg Lukacs. *History and Class Consciousness*.
Friedrich Nietzsche. *Untimely Meditations* (particularly "On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life").

Section 6: 20th-Century Visions of History

- 4/5 Gabriel Rockhill. "Eros of Inquiry: An Aperçu of Castoriadis' Life and Works."
Cornelius Castoriadis. "The Imaginary: Creation in the Social-Historical Domain"
and "The Social-Historical: Mode of Being, Problems of Knowledge."
Walter Benjamin. "On the Concept of History."
Supplementary Bibliography
Cornelius Castoriadis. *The Castoriadis Reader*.
Cornelius Castoriadis. *The Imaginary Institution of Society*.
Edmund Husserl. *Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*.
Siegfried Kracauer. *History: The Last Things Before the Last*.
Charles Péguy. *Clio*.
- 4/12 Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man*. "By Way of Introduction,"
Chapters 1 and 2.
Supplementary Bibliography
Francis Fukuyama. *The End of History and the Last Man* (other chapters).
Samuel Huntington. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*.
Jean-François Lyotard. *The Postmodern Condition*.

Karl Popper. *The Poverty of Historicism*.

4/19 Immanuel Wallerstein. *Introduction to World-Systems Analysis*: “Historical Origins of World-Systems Analysis: From Social Science Disciplines to Historical Social Sciences” and “The Modern World-System in Crisis: Bifurcation, Chaos, and Choices.”

Supplementary Bibliography

Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities*.

David Held and Anthony McGrew. *The Global Transformations Reader: An Introduction to the Globalization Debate*.

Gabriel Rockhill and Alfredo Gomez-Muller. *Politics of Culture and the Spirit of Critique: Dialogues*.

Immanuel Wallerstein. “After Developmentalism and Globalization, What?”

Immanuel Wallerstein. *Introduction to World-Systems Analysis* (other chapters).

Immanuel Wallerstein. *Untinking Social Science: The Limits of Nineteenth-Century Paradigms*.

5/15 **Final paper is due.**