

Phil 183 Topics in Continental Philosophy

Syllabus
Fall 2015
MWF 1:00-1:50 am
Humanities and Social Science
Room 2154

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Office: HSS
Office Hours: Tu.-Thu. 1:30-2:30 pm

Overview

This class is an introduction to European political philosophy. During the twentieth century continental Europe witnessed two world wars, the rise of Fascism, Stalinism and other major upheavals, all of which had a significant impact on European political thought. We will read major figures in the European tradition on topics such as the nature of politics, sovereignty, natural right, market order, human rights, the role of intellectuals, the treatment of refugees and other issues that remain relevant to political life today. The class presupposes minimal background in philosophy, and students in all majors can do well if they make the necessary effort.

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday October 20 (20%)

A 2,000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Wednesday November 18 (25%)

Mid-term (20%)

Final exam (25%)

Participation (5% attendance + 5% participation = 10%)

Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the class reader, available at Soft Reserves, as well as the following two books, available at the bookstore:

Schmitt, Carl (2007). *The Concept of the Political*, George Schwab trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

Agamben, Giorgio (1998). *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, D. Heller Roazen trans. (Stanford: Stanford University Press).

Both books and the reader will also be available at the library.

Week Zero: Introduction to Phil 183 (September 25)

No readings.

Week One: What is Continental Philosophy? (Sept. 28-Oct. 2)

Akehurst, Thomas (2010). "Nazi Philosophy," *The Cultural Politics of Analytic Philosophy: Britishness and the Specter of Europe* (London: Bloomsbury), 16-52.

White, Stephen (2011). "Contemporary Continental Political Thought," *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Political Philosophy*. George Klosko, ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 489-500.

Week Two: The Political (October 5-9)

Schmitt, Carl (2007). *The Concept of the Political*, George Schwab trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press [1927]), 19-79.

Week Three: Natural Right (October 12-16)

Strauss, Leo (1959). "What is Political Philosophy?," *What is Political Philosophy? And Other Studies* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press), 9-55.

Strauss, Leo (1953). "Classic Natural Right," *Natural Right and History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 120-64.

Week Four: Esoteric Writing (October 19-23) (No Friday class)

Strauss, Leo (1952). "Persecution and the Art of Writing," *Persecution and the Art of Writing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 22-37.

Burnyeat, M. F. (1985). "Sphinx Without a Secret," *The New York Review of Books*, May 30, 30-33.

Melzer, Arthur (2014). "Objections, Resistance and Blindness to Esotericism," *Philosophy Between the Lines: The Lost History of Esoteric Writing* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 95-124.

First essay due: Tuesday October 20, 5:00 pm.

Week Five: Spontaneous Order (October 26-30)

Hayek, Friedrich (1945). "The Use of Information in Society," *The American Economic Review* 35/4, 519-30.

Hayek, Friedrich (1974). "Reason and Evolution," "Cosmos and Taxis," *Law, Legislation and Liberty Volume I: Rules and Order* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 8-54.

Week Six: Against Human Rights (November 2-6)

Arendt, Hannah (2004) "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man," *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Schocken [1951]), 341-84.

Midterm: Friday November 6.

Week Seven: Action (November 9-13) (no Wednesday class)

Arendt, Hannah (1958). "Action," *The Human Condition* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press), 175-247.

Week Eight: The War Machine (November 16-20)

Deleuze, Gilles and Felix Gattari (1987). "The War Machine," *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, B. Massumi trans. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press [1980]), 351-423.

Second essay due: Thursday November 19, 5:00 pm.

Week Nine: Discipline and Intellectuals (November 23-27) (no Friday Class)

Foucault, Michel (1977). "Docile Bodies," *Discipline and Punish*. Alan Sheridan, trans. (New York: Vintage [1975]), 135-69.

Foucault, Michel (1984). "Truth and Power," *The Foucault Reader*, Paul Rabinow ed. (New York: Pantheon), 51-75.

Week Ten: Homo Sacer (November 30-December 4)

Agamben, Giorgio (1998). *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, D. Heller Roazen trans. (Stanford: Stanford University Press [1995]), selections.

General Information

Office Hours

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or contact me via Skype. Just drop me an email so I know to go on Skype, where my ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by

appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Submission

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

I am happy to grant each student one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

Assignments handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor.

Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information:

858.534.4382 (phone) osd@ucsd.edu (email) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu>
(web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.

