

Continental Philosophy Winter 2019

Monday 13:30-15:10

David Weberman Office Hours: tba and by appt. (in N13/205)
Email: webermand@ceu.edu

2 credits, 4 ECTS credits: no pre-requisites or co-requisites; course level: MA (core course)

Course Description: Continental Philosophy, in the 200-plus years since Kant, has taken very different directions, answering divergent questions in divergent vocabularies, making it difficult to cover it well in a single course. My idea here is to limit the course to tracing continental philosophy's existentialist themes. Existentialism might be seen as an attempt to give an account of what is distinctively human but not along lines centered on our ability to think and be rational. Existential themes are those aspects of human existence that present a distinctive challenge to us that goes beyond immediate material needs. The central authors read include Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre and Camus. One question in the background will be whether and in what form existentialism, apart from its origins and historically specific pathos, can be a systematic philosophical problem area today.

Goals of the course: To gain an overview of Continental European philosophy since Kant, in particular with regard to its existentialist strands. To become a better reader of older philosophical texts. To become more effective at critically such material.

Learning outcome: The desired outcome is to realize the goals of the course.

Teaching format: interactive lecture

Requirements and assessment: Students are required to attend classes and do the reading prior to class. They are strongly encouraged to take part in discussion. Also required:
For 2-year Philosophy MAs, end-of-year core essay exam.
For others, one 2000-word term paper.
Criteria for grading term paper include clarity, originality, depth and coherence.

Week 1 Jan 7 M Introduction; Continental versus Analytic Philosophy

Week 2 Jan 14 M Background Kant, Hegel (no assigned reading); Kierkegaard, *Either/Or* (excerpts)

Week 3 Jan 21 M Kierkegaard, *Sickness unto Death*

Week 4 Jan 28 M Kierkegaard, *Sickness unto Death*

Week 5 Feb 4 M Feuerbach, *Principles of the Philosophy of the Future*

Week 6 Feb 11 M Nietzsche, "Truth and Lie in an Extramoral Sense" and excerpt from *Gay Science*

Week 7 Feb 18 M Jaspers, *Psychology of Weltanschauungen* (excerpts); Heidegger, *Being and Time*

Week 8 Feb 25 M Heidegger, *Being and Time* (excerpts)

Week 9 Mar 4 M Heidegger, "What is Metaphysics"

Week 10 Mar 11 M Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (excerpts)

Week 11 Mar 18 M Sartre, *Nausea* (excerpts); Camus, *The Fall* (excerpts); Sheshtov, *The Apotheosis of Groundlessness* (excerpts)

Week 12 Mar 25 M Neo-Existentialism (Existentialism today) – T. Nagel, "The Absurd", "Death"