

Short Syllabus



Course Title

Introduction to Philosophy in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Lecturer

Dr. Ori Rotlevy

Contact details

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Office hours by appointment

Semester

Spring

Short Description

Kant's critical and systematic philosophy aimed to solve the problems of early modern philosophy – the grounds of knowledge, the foundations of ethics, the quarrels between rationalism and empiricism – yet it produced new problems which accompany us till this day: To what extent are philosophy, knowledge and ethics historically situated? How can philosophy account for the concreteness and particularity of our everyday existence? What is the role of language in thought and action? These are some of the major questions we will deal with in this introduction to philosophy in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will study the thinkers that have formed contemporary thought – from Hegel and Marx, through Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, and up to Frege, Wittgenstein, Heidegger and Derrida. We will learn about the conceptual tools that are fundamental for understanding our own present: the master and slave dialectic; historical materialism; intentionality; logical analysis; reductionism and holism; deconstruction, and more. And we will examine the roots of the contemporary divide between analytic and continental philosophy and possibilities for bridging the gap between these traditions.

Final grade components

Midterm:

15% In-class exam

Final requirement:

75% Final exam (in-class)

Participation:

10% Participation in class or via Q&A forum on Moodle

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unauthorized absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.*

Academic Conduct



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Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.*

Final assignment

Exam dates and submission deadlines are published on the Liberal Arts website. Courses with a final exam also have a second make-up exam.

Additional requirements

Read the required readings for every class carefully. This is highly important.

^{*} See Liberal Arts academic handbook for further details