

**Graduate Course Descriptions
Department of Philosophy
Fall 2024**

Recent Continental Philosophy

Kas Saghafi

PHIL 4441/6441

T/R 1:00-2:25 pm

<Theoretical>

Course Description

This course introduces students to several major thinkers in 20th Century Continental/European thought (including phenomenology, structuralism, critical theory, and hermeneutics) through readings of primary sources.

Required Texts

- Walter Benjamin "On the Concept of History" in Selected Writings vol. 4 1938-40, edited by Howard Eiland and Michael W. Jennings, [Belknap Press/Harvard University Press, 2006]. ISBN-10: 0674022297; ISBN-13 : 978-0674022294
- Theodor Adorno, The Culture Industry [Routledge, 2001]. ISBN-10 : 9780415253802; ISBN-13 : 978-0415253802
- Martin Heidegger, "On the Essence of Truth" in Basic Writings [Harper Perennial]
- Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Writing Lesson" in Tristes Tropiques, translated by Patrick Wilcken [Penguin, 2012]. ISBN-10 : 0143106252; ISBN-13 : 978-0143106258
- Jacques Lacan, "The Instance of the Letter in the Unconscious" in Ecrits [W.W. Norton, 2007]. ISBN-10 : 0393329259; ISBN-13 : 978-0393329254
- Hans Georg Gadamer, "The Ontology of the Work of Art" in Truth and Method [Bloomsbury Academic]. ISBN-10: 9781780936246; ISBN-13: 978-1780936246
- Carl Schmitt, Political Theology [University of Chicago Press, 2006]. ISBN-10: 0226738892; ISBN-13 : 978-0226738895
- Some of the reading will be made available electronically as a pdf

Recommended Texts

- Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism [Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1973] ISBN-10 : 0156701537; ISBN-13 : 978-0156701532
 - Ferdinand de Saussure, Course in General Linguistics [Open Court, 1998]. ISBN-10: 0812690230; ISBN-13 : 978-0812690231
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Seminar Contemporary Philosophy: "Pragmatism and Phenomenology"

Shaun Gallagher
PHIL 7203/8203
M 02:30-05:30 pm
<Theoretical>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Historically there were limited connections among proponents of pragmatism and proponents of phenomenology (with a few exceptions); indeed, there was zero personal contact between the major figures in these traditions (Peirce, James, Dewey on the side of pragmatism; Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty in phenomenology). The notable influence of James on Husserl's philosophy was primarily in the area of psychology and was unrelated to James' later work on pragmatism. Nonetheless, there are significant theoretical parallels, for example, between Peirce and Husserl, and between Dewey and Merleau-Ponty. More explicit connections start to emerge in neo-pragmatism (e.g., Rorty), and in recent work on embodied cognition which in some respects has been said to involve a 'pragmatic turn'. The seminar will explore all of these connections and disconnections.

Seminar Ethical Theory: "Artificial Intelligence and Philosophy"

David Miguel Gray
PHIL 7551/8551
T 2:30-05:30 pm
<Practical>

Course Description:

This course focuses on the development of AI (broadly construed to include traditional logic-based models – GOFAI - as well as models that make use of Machine Learning. We will seek to understand how some common ML models work (e.g., basic, spiking, and convolutional neural networks) as well as the architecture for organizing the models (e.g., transformer architecture used in GPT and possibly Mamba). We will also look at some recent applications of AI in the natural sciences and the business world.

We will also look at philosophical defenses and criticisms that artificial intelligence is, well, intelligent. We will look at some classic and modern critiques of the intelligence of AI (e.g., Hubert Dreyfus' Heideggerian-inspired critiques, contemporary versions of Fodor and Pylyshyn's productivity and systematicity critiques, and Penrose's Gödelian-inspired critique). We will also look at some of the ethical concerns AI has posed (focusing on privacy and explainability) and the recent policies that governments and corporations have implemented to reduce harm and risk, respectively.

Seminar Classical Philosophy: "Plato's *Cratylus*"

Sean Driscoll

PHIL 7201/8201

R 2:30-05:30 pm

<History of Philosophy>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TBA

Cognitive Science Seminar

Instructor: TBA

PHIL 7514/8514

W 2:20-05:20 pm

<Theoretical>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

TBA