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East Hall 03

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Office Hours Monday 1:30-3:00pm, Wednesday 3:30 to 5pm
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History 68
European Intellectual History:
Subjectivity and Structure since Nietzsche

Course Description:

A survey of European Intellectual History from the late 19th century to the late 20th century, providing a comprehensive introduction to major landmarks in Continental philosophy and social theory. Consideration of the influence of social and political contexts, such as war, colonialism and internationalism on European thought. Beginning with Nietzsche, the course is divided into five units, devoting special attention to psychoanalysis, critical theory, existentialism, structuralism and post-modernism. Readings include Freud, Heidegger, the Frankfurt School, Levi-Strauss, Sartre, Fanon, Foucault and Derrida. We also consider the intersection of European discourses with movements of the colonial and post-colonial world.

Required Books:

Søren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* and *The Genealogy of Morals* (available in one volume from Anchor Books)

Sigmund Freud, *Dora, Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*

Martin Heidegger, *Basic Writings*

Levi Strauss, *The Savage Mind*

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Nausea*

Aimé Césaire, *Notebook on Return to the Native Land*

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*

In addition to these books, a course reader will be available on the courses Blackboard site.

Evaluation:

Two short papers (each 20%) 40%

Class participation and response papers 20%

Final exam 40%

Unit One: Nietzsche and the Disenchantment of Bourgeois Culture

Week One: Introduction to European Intellectual History

09/08 Tue: Intellectual and Cultural Life of Europe, ca. 1850

09/10 Thurs: “High Criticism” and the Crisis of Faith
Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*

Week Two: Nietzsche & the Nineteenth-century Crisis of Bourgeois Culture

09/15 Tue: The Method of Genealogy
Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals*

09/17 Thurs: Subjectivity and the Critique of Metaphysics
Nietzsche, selections from *The Gay Science* and *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

Unit Two: The Origins and Development of Psychoanalysis

Week Three: Decadence, the Fin-de-Siècle, and the Discovery of Hysteria

09/22 Tue: Hysteria and the Origins of the “Talking Cure”
Freud, *Dora, Analysis of a Case of Hysteria*

09/24 Thurs: Psychoanalytic Interpretation
Freud, *Dora* (finish)
Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams*, Sections II, III, VI

Week Four: Dissipation

09/29 Tue: Diagnosing Culture Dissipation
Freud, “Death in Venice”
Freud’s case histories: “Little Hans”, “Wolfman”, “Rat Man”

10/01 Thurs: Modernity and the Critique of Culture
Ferdinand Toennies, *Community and Civil Society*, selection
Oswald Spengler, *The Decline and Fall of the West*, selection

Week Five The Psychoanalysis of Culture

10/06 Tue: The Expansion of Psychoanalysis
Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

10/08 Thurs: Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Controversy

Freud, “Resistances to Psychoanalysis”

Unit Three: The Frankfurt School

Week Six: Western Marxism and The Frankfurt School

10/13 Tues: The Origins of Western Marxism
Eduard Bernstein, “Evolutionary Socialism”
Georg Lukacs, “Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat”
Karl Korsch, *Marxism and Philosophy*, selection

10/15 Thurs: The Marxist Critique of Culture
Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
Theodor Adorno, “Fetishism in Music and Regression in Hearing”

Week Seven: Critical Theory and the Philosophy of History

10/20 Tue: Marxism, Modernity, Catastrophe
Walter Benjamin, “Theses on the Philosophy of History”

10/22 Thurs: The Dialectic of Enlightenment
Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Unit Four: European Existentialism

Week Eight: The Foundations of Existentialism

10/27 Tue: Decisionism
Ernst Jünger, *Stahlgewitter* (Storm of Steel), selection
Martin Heidegger, “Being and Time: Introduction” in Basic Writings (BW)

10/29 Thurs: The Existential Analytic of Dasein
Martin Heidegger, “Environmentality” and “Being-with” from *Being and Time*

Week Nine: Weimar Politics and the Critique of Metaphysics

11/03 Tue: Crises of Authority
Max Weber, “Science as a Vocation”
Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology*, selection

11/05 Thurs: Technology, Art, and the End of Metaphysics
Martin Heidegger, “What is Metaphysics?” in BW
Martin Heidegger, “Nietzsche’s Word, ‘God is Dead’”
Martin Heidegger, “The Origins of the Work of Art” in BW

Week Ten: Existentialism and Humanism

11/10 Tue: Jean-Paul Sartre and French Existentialism
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Nausea*

11/12 Thurs: The End of Subjectivity in Post-War European Thought
Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism and Humanism"
Martin Heidegger, "Letter on Humanism" in BW

Unit Five: Structuralism and Post-Structuralism

Week Eleven: Structuralism in European Thought

11/17 Tue: Structuralist Linguistics
Ferdinand de Saussure, *A Course in Linguistics*, selections

11/19 Thurs: French Feminisms and Existential Subjectivity
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, selections
Hélène Cixous and Catherine Clément, *The Newly Born Woman*, selections

Week Twelve: Structuralism and anti-Structuralism

11/24 Tue: Varieties of Structuralism: The Sociology of Knowledge
Claude Lévi-Strauss, *The Savage Mind*
Ludwik Fleck, *The Genesis and Development of a Scientific Fact*, selection

11/26 Thurs: Post-Structuralism in French Thought
Claude Lévi-Strauss, "Overture" to *The Raw and the Cooked*
Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Human Sciences"

Week Thirteen: Emergence of Alterity in French Post-War Thought

12/01 Tue: The Predicament of Colonial Subjectivity
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*
Aimé Césaire, *Notebook on Return to the Native Land*

12/03 Thurs: Thanksgiving break

Week Fourteen: Destruction and Reinvention of "the Self"

12/08: The Post-colonial Discourse on Ethics and the 'death' of Man
Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author"
Jacques Derrida, "The End of Man"

12/10: Foucault: Post-Structuralism, Genealogy, and Power
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*
Homi Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man"