
FIL 1006 HISTORY OF THOUGHT

COURSE LOAD: 60 HOURS

CREDITS: 4

PREREQUISITES: None.

INSTRUCTOR: Maria Priscilla Coelho

CLASS TIME: Tues. and Thurs. from 15h to 17h

EMAIL: profmariapvcoelho@gmail.com

CLASSROOM: TBA

FOLDER: 626 TEMIC / Google Classroom

OBJECTIVES

The course intends to foster critical thinking by: promoting acquaintance with key philosophical questions and a few attempts to discuss them; and by encouraging reflection upon the connections between the ontological, epistemological and ethical aspects of those questions.

DESCRIPTION

This course intends to address some of the main questions raised along the history of philosophy: [unit I] “What makes us think?”; “Why is there something rather than nothing?”; “How do we make the present heroic?”; [unit II] “What can I know? What must I do? What may I hope?”; [unit III] “What is the meaning of life?”; “What is the relationship between our subjectivity and the structures of power that permeate our life in society?”. The course will follow a thematic approach, going back and forward in the history of thought. Different thinkers, as Arendt, Benjamin, Heidegger, Kant and Hadot, will help conduct the discussions.

SYLLABUS

The course will be split into 3 units:
Unit I – What makes us think?;
Unit II – What can I know?;
Unit III – What is the meaning of life?.

ASSESSMENTS

Category III

There will be two main assessments. First, one week in advance, a list of questions will be shared with you and you will pick one to write a 1200 words essay about it. (Format requirements: Times 12, 1.5 spaced, text justified). You will submit it through Google Classroom (or email). The second main assignment will be a group project. You will present a seminar about one of the topics to be shared in advance. Exceptions must be discussed individually with the course instructor.

The calendar and the types of assessments are subject to change according to class agreements.

REQUIRED READINGS

ARENDT, H. **The life of the mind**. San Diego, New York, London: Harcourt, Inc, 1978.

BENJAMIN, W. **The work of art in the age of its technological reproducibility and other writings on media**. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2008.

HADOT, P. **Philosophy as a way of life**. Spiritual exercises from Socrates to Foucault. Ed. Arnold Davidson. Translated by Michael Chase. Oxford, UK & Cambridge, USA, 1995.

HEIDEGGER, M. **Introduction to metaphysics**. Translators: Gregory Fried and Richard Polt. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2000.

KANT, I. **Critique of pure reason**. Translated by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES

ANNAS, J. **The Morality of Happiness**. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993.

ARENDT, H. **Between the past and the future**. New York: The viking Press, 1961.

BANICKI, K. "Philosophy as Therapy: Towards a Conceptual Model." **Philosophical Papers** 43/1: 2014, p. 7-31.

BAUDELAIRE, C. **The flowers of evil**. Translated by James McGowan. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

BENJAMIN, W. **The writer of modern life**. Essays on Charles Baudelaire. Translated by Howard Eiland, Edmund Jephcott, Rodney Livingston, and Harry Zohn. Massachusetts and England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.

CHASE, M. "Observations on Pierre Hadot's Conception of Philosophy as a Way of Life." **Practical Philosophy** 8/2: 2007, p. 5-17.

DAVIDSON, A. "Spiritual Exercises and Ancient Philosophy: An Introduction to Pierre Hadot." **Critical Inquiry** 16/3: 1990, p. 475-482.

ENGSTROM, S.; WHITING, J. **Aristotle, Kant, and the stoics: rethinking happiness and duty**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

FOUCAULT, M. **The Care of the Self**. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

_____. **The Courage of the Truth** (The Government of Self and Others II): Lectures at the College de France 1983-1984. Edited by Arnold I. Davidson. Translated by Graham Burchell. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

GUYER, P. "The Unity of Reason: Pure Reason as Practical Reason in Kant's Early Conception of the Transcendental Dialectic". **Kant on Freedom, Law and Happiness**. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000, p. 60-97.

KANT, I. **Practical Philosophy**. Translated by M. Gregor. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

KIRK, G.; RAVEN, J. **The presocratic philosophers**: a critical history with a selection of texts. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960.

NUSSBAUM, M. **The Therapy of Desire**: Theory and Practice in Hellenistic Ethics. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994

SELLARS, J. **The Art of living**. The Stoics on the Nature and Function of Philosophy. London: Bristol Classical, 2009.

WITTGENSTEIN, L. **Philosophical Investigations**. Translated by G. E M. Anscombe. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1988.

OBS: The references are subject to change according to the pedagogical needs of the course.