

Dr. H. Zangeneh
Spring 2011

Brief Class Blurbs

Phil 4260
Twentieth Century Philosophy

This semester we will be concentrating on phenomenology and structuralism, two movements originating in European philosophy and reaching, later, far beyond. Towards the end of the semester we will also briefly examine some critical perspectives on these ideas stemming from 'post-structuralism.' The texts will be Edmund Husserl's 1st and 5th Logical Investigations (available at the bookstore), an e-reader on Structuralist philosophy of language including works by Saussure, Hjelmslev, Benveniste (these books are out of print so we will have to work with pdf files), and time permitting, 3 post-structuralist essays by Deleuze, Derrida, Balibar (also as a pdf-file). Briefly put, we will be reading about mind and language in 20th C European philosophy.

Phil 3400
Ethics

This course will deal with works from 3 major figures from the history of Ethics: Aristotle, Kant, Mill (concentrating on the first two). We will reflect not only on narrowly ethical questions (virtue, evil, friendship, etc) but also on the conceptual framework employed to clarify these topics. All readings will be from the 3 books ordered at the bookstore, however, we will be reading selections from Aristotle and Kant and not their entire books. This course will also be writing-intensive, so you should know that there will be an emphasis on papers.

Phil 3010
Classics of Western Philosophy

This course will concentrate on the birth and death of aesthetics in late Modern philosophy by focusing on Kant and Schelling (with side references to Baumgarten and Hegel). We will examine the basic concepts of each philosopher's system and then explore their theories of art, beauty, and the symbol. In addition to the 3 books ordered, there will be an e-reader with short supplementary passages from Schelling. These books are classics, every student should own them, but we will not be reading them all the way through.

Phil 2230
Modern Philosophy

In this course we will survey the history of Modern philosophy by focusing on the concepts of space and time as discussed in the context of science. We will read Descartes, Newton, Leibniz, Clarke and finally Kant (who will take up most of our time). In addition to the ordered books, there will be an e-reader with some passages from Descartes. The Kant book is the culmination of this course and, in many senses, of this period – we will not be able to finish it during the semester.