

Philosophy 471/571
Recent French Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Cook

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. in CHN 2171, or by appointment

Telephone: 253-3000, Extension 2340

Course Description:

Two philosophical trends were particularly important in France during the 20th century: existentialism and poststructuralism. In this course, we shall study Jean-Paul Sartre's *L'Être et le Néant* and Michel Foucault's *Surveiller et Punir*. Special attention will be paid to these philosophers' conceptions of the subject and freedom. Sartre's subject is characterized by its activity of negation. Arguing that we are beings through whom nothingness comes into the world, Sartre declares that this activity of negation makes us free. By contrast, Foucault's subject is caught up in institutions that often appear to determine its behaviour completely. According to Foucault, we live in a carceral society that coercively turns us into docile and submissive subjects. This course is devoted to a critical discussion of these views.

Assignments:

_ A workshop for the outline of a twenty page paper for undergraduates and a thirty page paper for graduate students

The workshop will be held in class on **5 October, 2016**. Participation in the workshop counts for **5% of the final grade for undergraduates and 10% of the final grade for graduate students**. In the workshop, students will present draft outlines of their papers. Topics for the paper should be related to the course material on recent French philosophy. Students may choose their own topics.

_ An outline for a twenty page paper for undergraduates and a thirty page paper for graduates

The outline is due on **19 October, 2016**; it is worth **10% of the final grade for undergraduates and 15% of the final grade for graduate students**.

In their outlines, students will state the thesis of their papers by taking a position on a topic of their choice that is related to the course material. Topics should have a clear and concise focus. The outline should present the points to be covered in the paper, along with arguments in defence of the thesis.

_ A workshop for the paper.

The workshop will be held in class on **9 November, 2016**. The workshop is worth **10% of the final grade for undergraduates and 15% of the final grade for graduates**. Grades for the workshop are based on the following criteria: a well-defined paper topic, along with clear evidence that research has been undertaken and that the paper is in a draft stage. The workshop is designed to help students address problems and concerns with their research and writing.

_ A twenty page paper for undergraduates and a thirty page paper for graduates

The final version of the paper must be submitted to Professor Cook on or before **7 December, 2016**; it is worth 30% of the final grade for undergraduates and 45% of the final grade for graduate students.

Grades for the outline and paper are based on the following criteria: appropriate and well focussed topic, correct spelling and grammar, coherent organization, logical argument, accurate interpretation, evidence of research, and originality of treatment, topic, and/or presentation.

_ A take-home examination for undergraduate students

The examination will be distributed on the last day of class and must be submitted in my office on (or before) **14 December, 2016 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.** It is worth 30% of the final grade.

_ Class participation

Class participation is worth 15% of the final grade for all students.

Participation marks are based on the following considerations: attendance in class, insightful questions and comments about course material, contribution to class discussion and debate.

Nota bene: Late assignments will not be accepted!

Primary Texts (available at the University of Windsor Bookstore):

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Secondary Texts (available in the Leddy Library):

Sartre:

Hazel E. Barnes, *Sartre*

Arthur C. Danto, *Jean-Paul Sartre*

W. Luijpen, *Existential Phenomenology*

Henri Peyre, *Jean-Paul Sartre*

Herbert Spiegelberg, *The Phenomenological Movement*

Foucault:

Barry Cooper, *Michel Foucault: An Introduction to his Thought*

Gilles Deleuze, *Foucault*.

Hubert Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, *Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*

John S. Ransom, *Foucault's Discipline: The Politics of Subjectivity*

John Rajchman, *Michel Foucault: The Freedom of Philosophy*