

**PHILOSOPHY 470 and 570:
Recent German Philosophy**

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Cook

Office Hours: CHN 2171, Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment

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Course Description: In this course, we shall examine the work of two German philosophers who were associated with the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt: Max Horkheimer and Herbert Marcuse. Schooled in the Marxist tradition, Horkheimer helped to forge the potent mix of philosophy, sociology, psychology, and economic theory that is the hallmark of Critical Theory. His early work, *Eclipse of Reason*, is a scathing attack on the prevailing form of reason in the West and its damaging effects on both individuals and society. Adopting the critical and interdisciplinary approach that Horkheimer outlined in his inaugural address as director of the Institute, Herbert Marcuse became one of the more famous and outspoken critical theorists. His work—including *One-Dimensional Man* and *An Essay on Liberation*—was a beacon for students in the sixties who wanted fundamentally to transform the existing social, political and economic order. In this course, we shall focus on the critical turn taken by these twentieth century thinkers.

Assignments:

_ A workshop on an outline for a 20 page paper for undergraduates, and for a 25-30 page paper for graduates. The workshop will take place from 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on 5 October, 2015; it is worth 5% of the final grade for undergraduates, and 10% of the final grade for graduates

In the workshop, students will present draft outlines of their papers. The draft outline should state the topic of the paper and describe the central points (ideas and arguments) that will be covered. Evidence of research must be provided. On the basis of feedback received in the workshop, the draft outline should be revised and submitted on 19 October (see below). Students may choose their topics, but should deal with an issue treated by a recent German philosopher (or philosophers).

_ An outline for the paper is due on 19 October, 2015; the outline is worth 10% of the final grade for undergraduates, and 15% of the final grade for graduates.

In their outlines, students will take a clear position on the topic they have chosen. The topic should have a clear and concise focus; it should be well organized, presenting the points that will be covered in the paper, along with arguments in defence of the thesis. Evidence of research must be provided.

_ A workshop on the draft for a 20 page paper (undergraduates), and for a draft of a 25-30 page paper (graduates). The workshop will be held on 2 November, 2015; it is worth 10% of the final grade for undergraduates, and 15% of the final grade for graduates.

In the workshop, students will present drafts of their papers for discussion and debate, with the aim of solving difficulties in research, interpretation, argument, and/or presentation before submission of the final paper.

_ A 20 paper for undergraduates, and a 25-30 page paper for graduates (approximately 250 words per page). The final version of the paper must be submitted on or before 7 December,

2015. The paper is worth 30% of the final grade for undergraduates and 45% of the final grade for graduates

Grades 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.

_ Class participation is worth 15% of the final grade for both graduates and undergraduates.

Participation marks are based on the following: attendance in class, thoughtful questions and comments about course material, and significant contribution to class discussions and debates.

_ A take-home examination for undergraduate students is worth 30% of the final grade. Answers to the examination questions will be submitted in Dr. Cook's office between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 16 December, 2015.

NOTA BENE: Late assignments will not be accepted!

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

Max Horkheimer, *Eclipse of Reason*

Idem, "Traditional and Critical Theory" (to be distributed in class)

Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*

Idem, *An Essay on Liberation*

Idem, "Philosophy and Critical Theory" in *Negations* (to be distributed in class)

Secondary Texts (for further reading and research):

a) General works on Critical Theory that include sections on Horkheimer and Marcuse

Rolf Wiggershaus, *The Frankfurt School* (intellectual history); Douglas Kellner, *Critical Theory, Marxism and Modernity*; David Held, *Introduction to Critical Theory*; Stephen Bronner, *Of Critical Theory and its Theorists*; Zoltan Tar, *The Frankfurt School*; Joan Alway, *Critical Theory and Political Possibilities*; John O'Neill, *On Critical Theory*

b) Works dealing specifically with Horkheimer and Marcuse

Seyla Benhabib, *et al.* eds. *On Max Horkheimer*; Seyla Benhabib, *Critique, Norm, and Utopia*; Douglas Kellner, *Herbert Marcuse and the Crisis of Marxism*; Paul Breines, ed. *Critical Interruptions*; Josef Chytrý, *The Aesthetic State*; Barry Katz, *Herbert Marcuse and the Art of Liberation*; Peter Lind, *Marcuse and Freedom*; Alasdair MacIntyre, *Marcuse*.