

CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY PHH4644
NATHAN ROTHSCHILD
SPRING 2021 SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

A study of selected works by 19th and 20th century continental philosophers. Specifically, in this course we will primarily read texts by Nietzsche, Freud, Marx, and Foucault. These texts will be used to call into question the view that the solitary individual is the ground of human thought and action. Taken together the course materials challenge the target understanding of the subject along three axes. One, they deny that the single individual is a unified whole. Instead, they contend there are sub-personal sources of action and thought and that being a unified subject is, if possible, an achievement. Second, these texts argue that human thought and action is possible only insofar as it is located within a wider context of intelligibility such as that provided by a particular social structure or form of life. Finally, these texts argue that the subject is historically constituted due to the dependence of subjectivity on shared practices. What it is to be a subject is determined by how we understand ourselves, and how we understand ourselves determines, and is determined by, shared practices that can and do change.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

Prof. Nathan Rothschild

Email: njrothschild@ufl.edu

Office: Griffin Floyd 311

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-3:00pm

Office Hours Zoom Address: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4225788584>

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

Time: T/R periods 4 (10:40-11:30)/4-5 (10:40-12:35)

Location: MAT 0051

REQUIRED TEXTS

Beyond Good and Evil, Nietzsche, ISBN: 014044923X

The Genealogy of Morals, Nietzsche, ISBN: 0679724621

Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality, ISBN: 0465086078

The History of Sexuality Volume 1, Foucault, ISBN: 0679724699

REQUIREMENTS

2 500-750 word papers	30%
1 paper draft (for the longer paper)	5%
1 4000-4500 word paper	35%
Discussion posts	10%
Class preparation, attendance and Participation in discussion	20%

The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

PAPERS: Papers are due by noon on their respective due dates. Please submit an electronic copy to Canvas.

- You must ask for an extension at least three days in advance (barring an emergency). Late papers will be penalized one third of a letter grade for each day beyond the due date.
- Papers should be in 12pt font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins and stapled. They also must include a word count. Papers which do not conform to these specifications will lose one third of a grade.
- There will be two types of papers in the course, shorter analytic expositions and a longer (roughly 12-14 page) final paper.
- Analytic expositions: These short papers will focus on articulating one central claim made by an author we are reading.
- There will be an analytic exposition assignment for each author. However, students are only required to write 2 analytic expositions. Thus, each student is required to choose 2 of the 4 assignments. The assignment(s) for each author will be circulated a couple days before it is due. These papers are intended primarily as a means to solidify your grasp of a given author, therefore it is recommended that you write an analytic exposition on the author(s) you hope to deal with in your final paper.
- Final Paper: Students are also required to write a longer, final paper on a topic of their own devising.
- Students are required to submit an outline of their final paper. This outline will be graded.

DISCUSSION POSTS: Students are responsible for submitting a discussion post every Wednesday concerning that week's reading. The posts will be due either at 7pm or 10pm. A post must develop a single question about the current reading, unless it is a response to another student's post. Each post

should reflect a thoughtful and serious engagement with the text. As a general rule of thumb, a post should be roughly a paragraph or two long. For example, “How can Foucault think we are not repressed?” is not a sufficiently developed post. Students are encouraged to respond to one another’s questions, although this is not required.

Each discussion post will receive a grade on a 0-2 scale.

POLICIES

CLASS Demeanor AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Students must also come to class prepared. This means keeping current on the reading assignments and being aware of the course schedule and activities, as presented in this syllabus, discussed in class, and announced on the course website. It also means bringing the day’s reading to class.

- In order to count as present in class you must:
 - Turn on your audio
 - It is also strongly recommended that you turn on your camera, show your face and sit in a class-like setting such as the desk in your room. Things that do not count as sitting in a class-like setting are, your car, your bed, your walk back to your apartment, and so on.
- In order to receive optimum participation credit your camera must be on. Alternatively, you may leave your camera off during class and come and meet with me to discuss the material at least two times during office hours.
- Here is the official language from UF which aligns most closely with this class’s expectations regarding Zoom audio and video : *The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Since the pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate in class activities through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is invited as well.*
- For an absence to be excused you must provide the relevant written proof (e.g., a note from the Dean of Students).

RECORDING LECTURES: I will not be recording anything.

TEXTS: For the required texts, students *must purchase the editions listed on the syllabus*. We will examine passages from these texts in class, and they will figure on the surprise quizzes. As a result, it is imperative that students do not use different editions or translations.

OUTSIDE SOURCES: Do not use texts or internet sources outside of those listed on the syllabus. If you would like to use an outside source when writing your paper, please clear the text with me first.

OFFICE HOURS: I strongly encourage you to take advantage of office hours. Come by to talk over the paper you are considering writing, or to simply think through questions about the course material.

- I prefer to schedule my office hours by appointment, but drop-ins are great too. If you know you want to come, get in touch and we will arrange a time.
- Office hours will be held at my personal Zoom address (posted above under instructor information).

EMAIL: Email is an essential mode of communication in the course. Students are expected to read all email they receive concerning the course and to do so in a timely fashion.

- *Be sure set your Canvas notifications to "Notify me right away."* I will proceed on the assumption that you have done so.
- If you want to reach me by email, please do so via UF email and not via Canvas. If you have substantive philosophical questions, email is not the best place for these; please come visit me in office hours.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Please make sure to turn off your phone before class period begins.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

PLAGIARISM: You are encouraged to work and exchange ideas with your fellow classmates, and you are heartily encouraged to share drafts of written work. However, you must compose and submit your own papers. Doing otherwise is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is the presenting of another's work as one's own. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

If you are not sure if something counts as plagiarism consult the Honor Code. If you are still unsure, please, do not hesitate to ask.

MAKE UP EXAMS: Requirements for make-up exams are consistent with university policies specified at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE MATERIALS:

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide constructive and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is available at gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/.

Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results will be available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

CANVAS E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. This course is supplemented by online content in the e-Learning environment known as "Canvas." To login to the e-Learning site for this course, go to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>, click the **e-Learning Login** button under, and on the next page enter your Gatorlink username and password. Logging in will take you to the "My Workspace" page, where you can access the course e-Learning environment by clicking on the course name in the banner toward the top of the page.

- Check "Readings" for all readings, which is under the "Pages" tab.
- Check the "Announcements" and "Calendar" tools in the e-Learning environment for new course content (such as recommended readings) and due dates for assignments.

The official recommended system requirements for e-learning in Canvas are a broadband Internet connection and a fully updated and compatible browser. For Windows based PCs: Firefox 3.x or Internet Explorer 7.x or 8.x. For Macs: Firefox 3.0 or Safari 4.x. (Other browsers such as Opera, Chrome, etc. are not recommended for use with Canvas) If you encounter any difficulties logging in or accessing any of the course content, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-4537. Do not contact the course instructor regarding computer issues.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week 1

- 1/12 Introduction
1/14 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Preface, Parts 1-2)

Week 2

- 1/19 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Part 5, Part 3 recommended)
1/21 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Parts 6-7, 9)

Week 3

- 1/26 Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, "Morality as Anti-Nature," "The Problem of Socrates"
1/28 Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay

Week 4

- 2/2 Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay
2/4 Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay

Week 5

- 2/9 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams* (Chapter 2, "Dream of the Botanical Monograph")
2/11 Freud, *Interpretation of Dreams* (Chapter 4, Chapter 6 sections A-C)

Week 6

- 2/16 Freud, "The Unconscious"
Freud, *Wolf Man Case History* (excerpts)
2/18 Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (First essay)
Lear, "What is Sex?"

Week 7

- 2/23 Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (Second Essay)
Freud, "On Narcissism"
2/25 **No class**

Week 8

- 3/2 Freud, "Beyond the Pleasure Principle"
3/4 Bion, "Attacks on Linking"
Lacan, "The Mirror Stage"

Week 9

- 3/9 Marx, *Ethical and Political Manuscripts* (pp. 66-106)
3/11 Marx, *Ethical and Political Manuscripts* (pp. 66-106)

Week 10

- 3/16 Althusser, "Preface to Capital Volume One"
Marx, *Capital Volume 1* (excerpts)
3/18 Marx, *Capital Volume 1* (excerpts)

Week 11

- 3/23 Marx, *Capital I Volume 1* (excerpts)
Marx, *Grundrisse* (excerpts)
Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus."
3/25 Marx, *Capital I Volume 1* (excerpts)
Marx, *Grundrisse* (excerpts)
Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus."

Week 12

- 3/30 Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1* (Parts 1-2)
4/1 Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1* (Parts 1-2)

Week 13

- 4/6 Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1* (Parts 4-5, Part 3 recommended)
4/8 Foucault, *The History of Sexuality Volume 1* (Parts 4-5, Part 3 recommended)

Week 14

- 4/13 Foucault, "Friendship as a Way of Life"
Bersani, "Is the Rectum a Grave?"
Vogler, "Sex and Talk"
4/15 Foucault, "Friendship as a Way of Life"
Bersani, "Is the Rectum a Grave?"
Vogler, "Sex and Talk"

Week 15

- 4/20 Concluding thoughts or paper writing workshop
4/22 **No class reading days**

Exam Week

- 4/26 **Final paper due**