Philosophy 247: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Philosophy Writing Intensive Spring, 2009 Professor Carol J. Moeller Moravian College

Class Meet: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20 – 11:30

Classroom: Hall of Science, 200

Professor's Office: Zinzendorf 202

Office Hours: T, TH, 8 - 8:45 a.m., 2 - 3:15 p.m., and by appointment

Required Texts:

Mill, John Stuart, *The Basic Writings of John Stuart Mill (On Liberty* is the included text needed for this course, Random House (Modern Library Classics), 2002, ISBN: 0-375-75918-2 (Other editions would be ok, but you will be responsible for negotiating the page numbers, which will be different in different editions.)

Marcuse, Herbert, Essay on Liberation, Beacon Press,1971, ISBN: 0807005959 or SBN-13: 978-0807005958

Minnich, Elizabeth Kamarck, *Transforming Knowledge*, 2nd Edition, Temple, 2005, ISBN: 1-59213-132-8

Arendt, Hannah, Between Past and Future, Penguin, Edition: reissue, 1993, ISBN: 0-14-018-650-6

Course Description:

This is a course in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Philosophy. It would be impossible to 'cover' major thinkers of these two centuries, particularly to look at thinkers around the world (for each part of the world has philosophy), and to look at a great diversity of voices in these conversations. European and U.S. traditions have tended to claim its own philosophical traditions as if they represented philosophy on the whole. Yet even to touch on the influential streams of thought of these two centuries of Europe and the U.S. could easily take eight semesters. Since we are limited to one semester, we must limit ourselves to certain key texts, from such thinkers as Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and Marcuse. While we are focusing on Western texts, we will address questions of how voices that are not male, white, and upper-class have tended to be excluded. Minnich's book will deal with such questions directly, not only about philosophy but also about thought generally.

Philosophy requires each of us to read, think, reflect, speak, and reason critically about how we ought to live, how people are and how we ought to be. The course will consist of dialogue with the texts and with each other. You will need to do all the assigned readings carefully and often numerous times in order to really grasp the readings with any kind of depth. You will need to engage deeply with the ideas in order to master the material. You will need to attend class and participate in class discussions, and by so doing learn to read, write, and think in a philosophical manner. One learns philosophy by doing it: reading what philosophers have written, following their lines of thought, asking our own questions of the texts and of each other, and thinking critically about their -- and our -- ways of thinking about the world.

"Philosophy" literally means "love of wisdom," when the word is translated from the Greek language. The principal aim of the course is to learn, to learn not only *what* philosophers have thought, but also *how* they have thought, with what methods and approaches. We seek to find strengths and weaknesses in their approaches, as well as in their views. We seek to discover, evaluate, and reflect critically upon our own views. It's not enough to have opinions; we must learn to examine our views for their adequacy, to give reasons for and against them.

Doing all the assigned work is indispensable. One cannot learn how to do philosophy just by listening to anyone else talk about it or by reading what they have written. We learn it mostly by doing it – just as we must learn by doing when you learn to play a sport or to play a musical instrument.

Readings: *Before* each class meeting, I expect you to read and reflect upon everything that we are covering in class. Fair warning: there is no way to master the material except by doing lots of reading, discussing, and reflecting upon the material.

Seeing Me: If you have any trouble with any of the material, come see me. Don't wait. Come to my office hours. If you cannot make these, let me know and we can set up another time to meet. Try to identify what your specific difficulties are, e.g., motivation, interest, reading comprehension, note-taking, writing, quiz and test-taking skills, philosophical reasoning. I can best help you get on track by seeing where in particular you are facing challenges. If you need to get something to me, leave it at my office.

Course Requirements

| Three Essays (minimum 5-6 double-spaced pages): | |
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| each 20% of Final Course Grade, | 60% |
| Two Exams each 20% of Final Course Grade, | 40% |
| One Presentation (required, but graded as pass/fail only) | |
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Attendance and Participation: Failure to participate will detract from your grade. Unexcused absences (beyond one) will push your course average -- and final grade – down by .5 % points per miss from the course average.

In addition, borderline grades may swing up or down (say, from a C- to a C, if the numerical grade is just on the line between those), depending upon a student's class participation and attendance levels. There will be no make-up exams.

Grading and Academic Integrity:

Grading and academic integrity policies for this course are in accordance with Moravian College standards, as expressed in the Catalog (p. 43). Please note the following about grading. Grading scheme: 97-100=A+ 93-96.9=A 90-92.9=A- 87-89.9=B+ 83-86.9=B 80-82.9=B-77-79.9=C+ 73-76.9=C 70-72.9=C- 67-69.9= D+ 63-66.9=D 60-62.9=D- 0-59.9=F

- A (4.00 points) and A- (3.67): "These grades indicate achievement of the highest caliber. They involve expectations of independent work, original thinking, and the ability to acquire and effectively use knowledge."
- B+ (3.33), B (3.00), and B- (2.67): "These grades indicate higher than average achievement. Evidence of independent work and original thinking is expected."
- C+ (2.33), C (2.00), and C- (1.67): "These grades are given when the student has devoted a reasonable amount of time, effort, and attention to the work of the course, and has satisfied the following criteria: familiarity with the content of the course, familiarity with the methods of study of the course, and active participation in the work of the class."
- D+ (1.33), D (1.00), and D- (0.67): "These grades indicate unsatisfactory work, below the standard expected by the College. They indicate work which in one or more important aspects

falls below the average expected of students for graduation. The work is, however, sufficient to be credited for graduation, if balanced by superior work in other courses." F (0.00): "This indicates failure."

Moravian College standards on academic integrity and plagiarism are available in *Academic Honesty at Moravian College*, available from the Office of the Dean of the College (in Colonial Hall, first floor). Plagiarism is very serious, resulting in automatic failure on the relevant assignment, even if the action is unintentional, such as the failure to cite the source of paraphrased ideas. We will discuss these issues on particular assignments, such as essays.

For this course, the following pointers may be helpful. Follow instructions on graded assignments, doing your own work unless the assignment is explicitly given as a group project or as allowing for open-book work. In doing essays, be sure to give references and credit for any ideas which are not entirely your own. That is, when quoting or paraphrasing or even referring to the idea(s) of another, cite the source. If you are not sure whether a reference is required, give a reference anyway. If in doubt, err on the side of overly generous reference giving, and consult with the professor for guidance.

READ THE FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS **BEFORE** EACH CLASS MEETING:

| SPRING TERM 2009 | | |
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| Tuesdays & Thursdays | | |
| PHIL 247 | | |
| Monday, January 19 | CLASSES BEGIN - Martin Luther King Day | |
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| Tuesday, January 20 | Introductions | |
| Thursday, January 22 | Hegel (Xerox) | |
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| Tuesday, January 27 | Hegel (Xerox) | |
| Thursday, January 29 | Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 1 | |
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| Tuesday, February 3 | Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 2 | |
| Thursday, February 5 | Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 3 - 4 | |
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| Tuesday, February 10 | Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 5 | |
| Thursday, February 12 | Marx (Xerox) | |
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| Tuesday, February 17 | Marx (Xerox) Essay #1 Due | |
| Thursday, February 19 | Existentialists (Xerox) | |
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| Tuesday, February 24 | Existentialists (Xerox) | |
| Thursday, February 26 | Exam 1 | |
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| Friday, February 27 | Mid term day of spring schedule | |
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| Sat, February 28 noon - | | |

| Mon, March 9 7:30am | SPRING RECESS (no class meetings missed) |
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| Tuesday, March 10 | Marcuse, pp. 3-22 |
| Thursday, March 12 | Marcuse, pp. 23 - 78 |
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| Tuesday, March 17 | Marcuse, pp. 79 – 91 Essay #2 Due |
| Thursday, March 19 | Arendt, pp. 3 - 40 |
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| Tuesday, March 24 | Arendt, pp. 41 - 90 |
| Thursday, March 26 | Arendt, pp. 91 - 142 |
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| Friday, March 27 | Last Day for Withdrawal with "W" |

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| Tuesday, March 31 | Arendt, pp. 143 - 196 |
| Thursday, April 2 | Arendt, pp. 197 - 226 |
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| Tuesday, April 7 | Arendt, pp. 227 -265 |
| Thursday, April 9 | pp. xii - xviii, 1 - 61 |
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| Thurs, April 9 | |
| 10pm- | EASTER RECESS |
| Monday, April 13 6pm | |
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| Tuesday, April 14 | Minnich, pp. 62 - 102 |
| Thursday, April 16 | Minnich, pp. 103 – 168 Essay #3 Due |
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| Tuesday, April 21 | Minnich, pp. 169 - 231 |
| Thursday, April 23 | Minnich, pp. 232 - 276 |
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| Tuesday, April 28 | Minnich, pp. 232 – 276, continued |
| Thursday, April 30 | Further Discussion |
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| Saturday, May 2 | CLASSES END |
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| Friday, May 8 1:30 | Final Exam |
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| Monday-Saturday | Finals Period |
| May 4-May 9 | |
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