

PHIL 247: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Philosophy (Writing Intensive)

Spring, 2015

Professor Carol J. Moeller

Moravian College

**Class:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:20 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., PPHAC 116

**Professor's Office:** Comenius 110, 610-625-7881, [moellerc@moravian.edu](mailto:moellerc@moravian.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Thursdays: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., and by appointment.

**Required Text:** McNeil, William and Karen S. Feldman, ed., *Continental Philosophy: An Anthology*, Blackwell, 1998.

**Course Description:**

Trends in recent philosophy inaugurated by Nietzsche, Marx, and Kierkegaard and by Mill, Russell, and Ayer, through the present. Manifestation of these trends in contemporary phenomenology and analytic philosophy. May emphasize Continental or British-American traditions in current philosophy. Writing-intensive. Spring, alternate years. (M3)

The following are some of its learning outcomes:

1. Achieve a broad understanding of the nineteenth and twentieth century philosophy, focusing upon such themes as who we are (individually and collectively), how to make sense of the world, and how we should live.
2. Strengthen skills for fair and sympathetic treatment of philosophical views and for critical reflection upon them.
3. develop verbal, writing, and thinking abilities to understand philosophical work, examine it in depth, evaluate work critically, take positions, argue for them, and defend against competing views.

General Issues

**Class Protocol:** Be aware of the various ways in which we ought to treat each other with respect, being silent (especially while another person is speaking), being on time, having cell phones and pagers turned off, etc. Treat one another with kindness and respect. Be sure to make any criticisms as constructive as possible, challenging an idea without attacking a person. Anyone appearing to be disruptive or disrespectful will be asked to leave class. On a second occurrence the person would be dismissed from the course altogether.

**Academic Integrity:** Be sure to observe strictly Moravian College policies on academic integrity. Do your own work. Give credit any time you quote, paraphrase, or use anyone else's words or ideas. Give credit wherever it is due. Failure to do so -- whether intentional or accidental -- is academic dishonesty and is taken seriously, resulting in at least a 0 on the relevant assignment. For further specific information and resources on academic honesty, see the Student Handbook, the professor, or the Academic Dean's Office.

**Documentation:** You must document your work correctly. Use a style manual (such as M.L.A. or Chicago) access one through the Internet, or use a library copy. Please see a librarian if you need help with documentation. Pay special attention to the documentation of any Internet sources. If you use an Internet source, you must include the web address plus a hard copy of the article used, attaching these as an appendix.

Seeking help: Please see me with any questions you may have. Come to office hours. If those do not work out for you, arrange an appointment outside of office hours. Email me with questions, to find a time to meet, etc. I am available to talk over essay topics and to look at essay drafts as well.

Disabilities/Learning Disabilities:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Learning Services and Disability Support. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

Writing Center: Please make use of the free services of the Writing Center by appointment, on the second floor of Zinzendorf. However, the Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Potential Syllabus Changes:

This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's notice.

Further Note on Grading:

As in other courses, grading is at the discretion of the professor. For example, there may be an element of subjectivity in how much partial credit is given to a response. You may appeal grades to the Department Chair, Bernardo Cantens, and to the Dean's Office.

While the quantity of reading will be relatively small, sometimes only 30-40 pages or so per class session, you need to read each article carefully, several times, taking notes, asking questions about anything remaining unclear. It is your responsibility to achieve a thorough and deep understanding of each of the readings. You need to go far beyond grasping each author's position(s) to understanding each author's argument for the position(s), to comprehending criticisms of those arguments and positions, and to develop your own responses and critical evaluations of them, supporting them with good arguments.

Additional readings may be supplied and required.

### Course Requirements

**Three Exams** (including final exam):

**Exam 1 is 15 %** of Final Course Grade, Exams 2 and 3 are 20% each 55%

**Two Essays (7-8 double-spaced Pages in Length): Each 20%** of Final Course Grade,  
Submitted in stages required (details to follow) 40%

**Two Class Presentations, Engagement, and 5 ungraded 1-2 page response**

**Essays** 5%

100%

#### I. Engagement

A. Two Presentations. (These may be done alone or in a pair.) In this presentation of 8-10 minutes (on assigned class days), you should provide an overview of the main points of the readings for that day explained in your own words (though you may point to sections of the text for clarification and support), offering your own analyses, questions, and responses to them.

B. Occasional quizzes, worksheets, collective work projects and/or other brief in-class assignments, (some graded by letter or number, some simply for credit as satisfactory or unsatisfactory).

C. Engagement overall and attendance (both qualitative and quantitative).\*

Note: in addition to

the attendance grade here, unexcused absences beyond two will count against your final grade at a rate of 0.5% each. Please inform me before the date of an excused absence, giving relevant documentation in advance.

The principal aim of the course is to learn, to learn not only *what* nineteenth and twentieth-century philosophers have thought, but *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, holding them up to critical scrutiny. It's not enough to have opinions; we must learn to examine our views for their adequacy, to give reasons for and against them. In part, the aim is to help you to acquire certain intellectual *skills*. Whether or not you acquire these skills depends, mostly, on whether you dedicate enough time and energy to the course. You will need to attend class, read the text, and, especially, engage with the ideas in order to master the material. *Doing all the assigned work is indispensable*. You cannot learn how to do philosophy just by listening to me or anyone else talk about it. You learn it mostly by doing it ~ much the way you learn to play a sport or an musical instrument.

**Homework:** 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.

Coursework: Before each class, read and reflect upon everything that we are covering in class.

Intellectual Environment: Teaching and learning, on all of our parts, requires consistent effort.

An atmosphere supporting high intellectual levels of discussion and written work is invaluable.

Work Expectations: These readings will range from moderately difficult to extremely difficult.

To be understood they must be read, reread, and questioned in great detail. One needs to be able to express the author's ideas in one's own words precisely. Expect to work hard to understand the readings, then still harder to respond to them.

Seeing Me: If you have any trouble with any of the material, please bring it up in class, email me, or 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. You can be sure that others are having similar difficulties or questions. 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 have gone wrong.

If you need to get something to me, leave it at my office.

Seeking help: Please see me with any questions you may have. Come to office hours. If those donot work out for you, arrange an appointment outside of office hours. Email me with questions, to find a time to meet, etc. I am available to talk over essay topics and to look at essay drafts as well.

Writing Center: Please make use of the free services of The Writing Center by appointment. However, it is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392.

Class Protocol: Since we are all adults, I need not specify all of the various ways in which we ought to treat each other with respect, being silent (especially while another person is speaking), being on time, having cell phones and pagers turned off, not texting (even if you think no one can tell), etc. Treat one another with respect. Be sure to make any criticisms as constructive as possible, challenging an idea

without attacking a person. Anyone appearing to be disruptive or disrespectful will be asked to leave class. On a second occurrence the person would be dismissed from the course altogether.

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access one through the Internet, or use a library copy. Please see a librarian or me if you need help with documentation. Pay special attention to the documentation of any Internet sources. If you use an Internet source, you must include the web address plus a hard copy of the article used, attaching these as an appendix.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic and Disability Support, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Responsibilities of each class member:

- 1) Come to class prepared, having done the readings and any assignments before class, having carefully and reflected upon them, with notes jotted down for questions, comments, and clarifications.
- 2) Participate fully in class, giving full attention to whomever is speaking, refraining from side talking.
- 3) Contribute to an atmosphere of learning, being focused and respectful of the ideas at stake, of the course materials, and of each other.
- 4) Regular participation in presentations, discussions, group work, etc.
- 5) Honest self-assessment on these criteria. (I may periodically ask you assess yourselves on these criteria.)

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 or quizzes** (except possibly in extreme emergency circumstances)

#### **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.

## Philosophy 247 Course Schedule

| <u>Dates</u> |                  | <u>Text and Pages</u>                                 |
|--------------|------------------|---|
| Jan. 20      | Tuesday          | First Day   |
| Jan. 22      | Thursday         | pp. 1-3, top of p. 7, pp. 36-38                       |
| Jan. 27      | T                | pp. 47-56, Hegel                                      |
| Jan. 29      | Th               | pp. 65-74, Kierkegaard                                |
| Feb. 3       | T                | pp. 75-88, Nietzsche                                  |
| Feb. 5       | Th               | pp. 97-106, Husserl; <b>Essay 1 Due</b>               |
| Feb. 10      | T                | pp. 107-122, Heidegger                                |
| Feb. 12      | Th               | pp. 153-160, Sartre, pp. 161-166, de Beauvoir         |
| Feb. 17      | T                | Review  |
| Feb. 19      | Th               | <b>Exam 1</b>   |
| Feb. 24      | T                | pp. 167-175, Merleau-Ponty                            |
| Feb. 26      | Th               | pp. 203-214, Hegel                                    |
| March 3      | T                | pp. 215-225, Marx and Engels, pp. 226-228, Luxembourg |
| March 5      | Th               | pp. 229-239, Lukacs, pp. 240-243, Gramsci             |
| March 10     | T                | No Class: Spring Break                                |
| March 12     | Th               | No Class: Spring Break                                |
| March 17     | T                | pp. 260-270, Arendt                                   |
| March 19     | Th               | pp. 279-285, Marcuse                                  |
| March 24     | T                | Review  |
| March 26     | Th               | <b>Exam 2</b>   |
| March 31     | T                | pp. 354-364, Derrida                                  |
| April 2      | Th               | pp. 365-373, Deleuze and Guatarri                     |
| April 7      | T                | pp. 374-379, Cixous                                   |
| April 9      | Th               | pp. 380-390, Foucault                                 |
| April 14     | T                | pp. 391-405, Lyotard                                  |
| April 16     | Th               | pp. 406-415, Kristeva; <b>Essay 2 Due</b>             |
| April 21     | T                | pp. 416-420, Kofman                                   |
| April 23     | Th               | pp. 421-428, Irigaray                                 |
| April 28     | T                | pp. 247-252, Zizek                                    |
| April 30     | Th               | Wrap-Up, Review                                       |
| May 8        | Friday 1:30 p.m. | <b>Final Exam</b>                                     |