

History of Western Philosophy II A | PIU22011

Year	Senior Freshman
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Lilian Alweiss and Professor Vasilis Politis
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Module Outline:

Component one: Kant: Epistemology and Metaphysics (Prof. Lilian Alweiss)

This course will introduce you to Kant's theoretical philosophy as articulated in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. The course will focus primarily, but not exclusively, on topics from the first half of the book, and will examine core topics such as the Copernican Turn, Kant's doctrine of transcendental idealism, the analytic/synthetic distinction, the nature of space, the problem of causation and the response to Humean scepticism, and Kant's theory of the self. The course will aim to show the centrality of Kant's thought both to an understanding of the development of the history of philosophy and as a source of philosophical interest for contemporary epistemology and metaphysics.

Component two: Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Derrida and Foucault on Plato (Prof. Vasilis Politis):

The aim of these lectures is to study the way in which four remarkable and fascinating philosophers of the 19th and 20th Century read Plato and accommodate him in their own way and for their own purposes. The four philosophers being: Søren Kierkegaard in his reading of Plato's *Phaedo* in his *The Concept of Irony*. Martin Heidegger in his essay 'The Essence of Truth'. Jacques Derrida in his book *Disseminations*, the essay 'Plato's Pharmacy'. And Michel Foucault in his 1982 lectures at the College de France.

We shall study these four pieces closely, both in their own right and their own sake and for the way they treat of and accommodate Plato. We shall combine this with a close study of the texts in Plato that the four philosophers are reading and working on: For Kierkegaard it is Plato's *Phaedo* For Heidegger it is Plato's *Simile of the Cave* in Republic VII. 514–519. For Derrida it is Plato's *Phaedrus* and especially the end of that dialogue. For Foucault it is Plato's *Apology*, *Phaedo* and *Alcibiades I*.



Assessment:

- 1 x essay worth 50% of module
- 1 x (1 hour) examination worth 50% of module

You have to submit ONE essay for this course and answer ONE question in the exam. If you submit an essay for component ONE you have to do the exam on Component TWO and vice versa.

Recommended Reading List:

Component one: The set-text for this component is:

- Immanuel Kant: *The Critique of Pure Reason*, translated by Kemp Smith, Macmillan. (You can use other translations if you so wish)

You may wish to consult additionally:

- Sebastian Gardner *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, Routledge. (short and good introduction)
- Georges Dicker: *Kant's Theory of Knowledge*. New York: Oxford Uni. Press, 2004.
- James O'Shea: *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason Acumen*, 2012

Component two:

- S. Kierkegaard, *The Concept of Irony*. The section on the Phaedo and the section on Plato's myths.
- M. Heidegger, 'The Essence of Truth' (translation to be advised)
- J. Derrida, 'Disseminations' (translation to be advised)
- Foucault, M. 2005. *The hermeneutics of the subject: lectures at the Collège de France, 1981–1982*. Edited by Frédéric Gros ; general editors, François Ewald and Alessandro Fontana; translated by Graham Burchell. (The original French edition published in 2001 by Éditions de Seuil/Gallimard.) READ PAGES 1–79
- Plato: *Phaedo* (there are several good translations; I recommend the one by G.M.A. Grube, which can be found in *Plato. Complete Works*, edited by John M. Cooper).
- Plato: *Republic* (either the translation by Grube, which is in ed. Cooper, *Plato. Complete Works*, or that by Christopher Rowe, which is in the Penguin Books series).
- Plato: *Phaedrus* (either the translation by Nehamas&Woodruff, which is in ed. Cooper, *Plato. Complete Works*, or that by C. Rowe).
- Plato: *Apology* (in the translation by Grube, in ed. Cooper, *Plato. Complete Works*).
- Plato: *Alcibiades I* (in the trans. by Hutchinson, in ed. Cooper, *Plato. Complete Works*).