

PHIL 204w.01  
19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy  
Rich Bldg 108  
Tue/Thu 1:00–2:15

Prof. Andrew J. Mitchell  
Bowden 215  
OH: Thu 2:30–4:00  
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## History, Narrative, Responsibility

This course offers a survey of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy focusing on the topic of history and narrative, with an eye to the role of responsibility in these. The nineteenth century marks the emergence of a new historical awareness into philosophy. Our course begins with Hegel, whose *Philosophy of History*, presents an idea of spiritual progress and freedom as driving historical change. Marx then proposes an alternate model of historical change and progress, from a materialist rather than idealist foundation. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Nietzsche calls into question the usefulness of history at all, arguing for a new historical responsibility, and criticizes the notion of progress operative in philosophers before him. In the twentieth century, we will explore the personal dimensions of history and narrative. We begin with DuBois, whose writing negotiates the historical repercussions of American history of chattel slavery. Heidegger shows the way in which existence is inherently historical. Levinas argues that our personal histories express themselves corporeally, indeed they are written upon our faces, and he finds an ethical imperative in this. Lastly, Butler develops these ethical consequences of historical life, focusing on the important role of giving an account of ourselves as the key to responsibility.

As this course is a Writing Requirement course, it will also feature four writing workshops across the semester, each one targeting a different aspect of writing style. Readings on style and writing accompany these workshops as part of the core course content. To think well is to write well and the aim of this course is to improve the writing style of every student who takes it.

### Required Texts

Hegel, G.W.F. *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Trans. Leo Rauch. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1988. ISBN: 9780872200562.

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*. Ed. David McLellan. Trans. Samuel Moore. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780199535712.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*. Trans. Peter Preuss. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980. ISBN: 9780915144945

DuBois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Penguin, 1996. ISBN: 9780140189988

Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time*. Trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson. New York: Harper, 1962. ISBN: 9780061575594.

Butler, Judith. *Giving an Account of Oneself*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780823225040

Williams, Joseph and Joseph Bizup. *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Boston: Longman, 2014. ISBN: 9780321953308

*A Note on Editions.* Please use only the above editions of the texts for this course. I have supplied ISBN numbers to facilitate this. Translations vary greatly according to translational and editorial decisions. How a translator renders a key term will shape how a book is received. The above editions were intentionally chosen against other published translations for their superior quality and fit with our course concerns. Using these editions not only provides us with common page references in class, but more importantly, they provide us with a shared vocabulary for talking through the ideas at stake in the readings. Only these editions will be permitted for course work.

### Required Texts on Electronic Reserve

Lanham, Richard. "Action." In *Revising Prose*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: Pearson Education, Inc., 2007), 1–20.

Levinas, Emmanuel. "The Face," in *Ethics and Infinity: Conversations with Philippe Nemo*. Trans. Richard A. Cohen. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1985. 83–92.

\_\_\_\_\_. Selections on history from *Is It Righteous to Be?: Interviews with Emmanuel Levinas*. Ed. Jill Robbins. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001. 89–90, 216–18.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Ethics and the Face," in *Totality and Infinity: An Essay on Exteriority*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 1969. 194–204.

Trimble, John R. "Punctuation." In *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1975. 101–9.

### Assignments

|                            |     |                         |     |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|
| Attendance & Participation | 10% | Paper 2 Draft (5–6 pgs) | 15% |
| Homeworks 1–3              | 10% | Paper 2 Revision        | 10% |
| Paper 1 (5–6 pgs)          | 20% | Paper 3 (10 pgs)        | 35% |

*Attendance & Participation.* Full participation is not only doing the reading before class, but contributing to classroom discussion and the learning environment. This includes actively listening, considering the contributions of others, and engaging with their ideas

in a respectful, mutual endeavor to develop insights into the topic at hand. Attendance at the four writing workshops throughout the semester is mandatory and part of this grade. Students are allowed two unexcused absences. The attendance grade is the percentage of classes attended.

*Homework.* Three homework assignments throughout the semester will stress the lessons presented in the course texts devoted to writing and style. These are graded pass/no pass.

*Paper Assignments.* For papers 1 (Hegel & Marx) and 2 (Nietzsche & DuBois), topics will be provided to the student. Paper 2 is a two-part assignment where a draft is submitted first, graded and returned, and then revised by the student in light of instructor feedback. The revision is graded based on how well it incorporates instructor suggestions and improves the paper as a whole. For the final paper, students will have free choice of topic focusing on any of the remaining course authors alone or comparing one of these figures with any other of our class authors. Papers are expected to show a refined thesis and focused argument. We are happy to meet with students to discuss their writing in advance of any assignment.

## **Course Policy**

*Submitting Papers.* All papers should bear a thoughtful title. All papers are to be stapled and without cover sheets or report folders of any kind. Include your name, the course number, your professor's name, and the assignment name at the top of your paper on first page only. Should you ever submit a paper by e-mail as an attachment (as is the case for the final paper), please give the file a unique name by using your last name and a brief descriptor, i.e. "PattonPap3.docx."

*Paper Drafts.* We are happy to read drafts of student work in advance of the due date (first two paragraphs for thesis and argument structure). However, no student work will be read the day before an assignment is due.

*Late Papers.* Papers are due at the start of class on the date specified. Late papers will be accepted up to one week after the original due date at a penalty of 4 pts. (1/3 letter grade) per class date missed. After one week, the paper will be assigned a score of zero. No late work can be accepted on the final paper.

*Writing Center.* Tutors in the Emory Writing Center are available to support Emory College students as they work on papers, discussion posts, websites, and other projects. Writing Center tutors work on idea development, structure, use of sources, grammar,

and word choice. They do not proofread for students. Instead, they discuss strategies and resources students can use as they write, revise, and edit their own work. Tutors also support the literacy needs of English Language Learners; several tutors are ELL Specialists, who have received additional training. Learn more about the Writing Center and make an appointment through the EWC website:

<http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu/>. Please review tutoring policies before your visit. A maximum of 2 appointments are allowed each week. Students need to bring hard copies of drafts to their appointments. The Writing Center is located in Callaway N-111 and is open on Monday-Thursday from 11am-8pm, on Friday from 11am-5pm, and on Sunday from 12-8pm. The Spring Semester opening date is January 28, 2020.

*Honor Code.* The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council. The Honor Code may be reviewed online at:

<http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>.

*Citation and Plagiarism.* Student work is expected to be of original creation. For proper citation procedure, see: [guides.main.library.emory.edu/citing\\_your\\_sources](http://guides.main.library.emory.edu/citing_your_sources). For our course it is sufficient to parenthetically note within the body of your essay the text (by abbreviated title) and page number in question. It is always better to turn in an essay of your own creation, however last minute, than to plagiarize. All cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Council without exception. For further questions or clarification, please ask.

*Office of Accessibility Services.* Office of Accessibility Services works with students who have disabilities to provide reasonable accommodations. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact OAS. It is the responsibility of the student to register with OAS. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed. Students registered with OAS who have a letter outlining their academic accommodations, are strongly encouraged to coordinate a meeting time with your professor that will be best for both to discuss a protocol to implement the accommodations as needed throughout the semester. This meeting should occur as early in the semester as possible. Students must renew their accommodation letter every semester they attend classes. Contact the Office of

Accessibility Services for more information at (404) 727-9877 or [accessibility@emory.edu](mailto:accessibility@emory.edu). Additional information is available at the OAS website at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>.

## Schedule

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Reading</i>   | <i>Note</i>         |
|------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| Tue        | 1/14        | Course Introduction,<br>Introduction to Hegel,<br>Read Trimble, "Punctuation"              |                     |
| Thu        | 1/16        | Hegel, <i>History</i> , 3–18   |                     |
| Tue        | 1/21        | Hegel, <i>History</i> , 19–32  | HW 1: Semicolon Due |
| Thu        | 1/23        | Hegel, <i>History</i> , 32–56  |                     |
| Tue        | 1/28        | Hegel, <i>History</i> , 57–82  |                     |
| Thu        | 1/30        | WRITING DAY 1: Thesis<br>Hegel, <i>History</i> , 92–98                                     |                     |
| Tue        | 2/4         | Marx & Engels, <i>Manifesto</i> , 1–16   |                     |
| Thu        | 2/6         | Marx & Engels, <i>Manifesto</i> , 7–39   |                     |
| Tue        | 2/11        | Nietzsche, <i>History</i> , 7–22   | Paper 1 Due         |
| Thu        | 2/13        | Nietzsche, <i>History</i> , 22–38  |                     |
| Tue        | 2/18        | Nietzsche, <i>History</i> , 38–49  |                     |
| Thu        | 2/20        | Nietzsche, <i>History</i> , 49–64  |                     |
| Tue        | 2/25        | WRITING DAY 2: Clarity<br>Read Williams, "Lesson 2: Actions" and<br>"Lesson 3: Characters" | HW 2: Clarity Due   |
| Thu        | 2/27        | DuBois, <i>Souls</i> , 3–33  |                     |
| Tue        | 3/3         | DuBois, <i>Souls</i> , 34–58   |                     |
| Thu        | 3/5         | DuBois, <i>Souls</i> , 59–84   |                     |
| Tue        | 3/10        | Spring Break   | <i>No Class</i>     |
| Thu        | 3/12        | Spring Break   | <i>No Class</i>     |
| Tue        | 3/17        | Spring Break, extended   | <i>No Class</i>     |
| Thu        | 3/19        | Spring Break, extended   | <i>No Class</i>     |
| Tue        | 3/24        | Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> , 41–49, 67–71  | Paper 2 Draft Due   |
| Thu        | 3/26        | Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> , 424–34  |                     |
| Tue        | 3/31        | Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> , 434–49  |                     |
| Thu        | 4/2         | Levinas, selections on history and "The Face," PDF   | HW 3: Revision Due  |
| Tue        | 4/7         | Levinas, "Ethics and the Face," PDF  |                     |

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| Thu | 4/9  | Butler, <i>Giving an Account</i> , 3–40                                      | Paper 2 Revised Due            |
| Tue | 4/14 | WRITING DAY 3: Cohesion<br>Read Williams, “Lesson 4: Cohesion and Coherence” | HW 4: Cohesion & Coherence Due |
| Thu | 4/16 | Butler, <i>Giving an Account</i> , 83–111                                    |                                |
| Tue | 4/21 | Butler, <i>Giving an Account</i> , 111–36                                    |                                |
| Thu | 4/23 | Conclusions  |                                |
| Thu | 4/30 | No Class   | Paper 3 Due                    |