

Seminar in Philosophy before the Modern Period- PHIL4004

Carleton University, fall 2014
Thursdays, 2:35-5:25pm, Seminar Room

Professor: Annie Larivée
Office hours: Tue. 2:40-3:40pm, Thurs. 5:25-6:25pm, or by appointment
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Ancient and Contemporary Reflections on the Self

I – DESCRIPTION

In this seminar, we will examine various texts devoted to issues related to the self in both ancient and contemporary philosophy. The questions we will discuss will include: the search for the ‘true’ self, self-knowledge and the role of the other in self-knowledge, self-regarding virtues, ethics as self-shaping and self-constitution, and the self as ‘persona’.

II – REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are available at **Haven Books** (43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), tel: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca):

- Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, trans. G. Hays, Modern Library, New York, 2003.
- Epictetus, *Discourses and Selected Writings*, trans. R. Dobbin, Penguin Classics, 2008.
- Korsgaard, Ch., *Self-Constitution*, Oxford U. Press, 2009.
- Appiah, K.A., *The Ethics of Identity*, Princeton U. Press, 2005.
- Sorabji, R., *Self. Ancient and Modern Insights about Individuality, Life, and Death*, Chicago, The U. of Chicago Press, 2006.

A copy of each book will be placed on reserve at the library. The other texts included in the assigned readings will also be placed on reserve.

III – OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Students are expected to attend all classes and to do the readings in advance of class meetings.

- 1) 09/04 **Introduction to the seminar**, Western philosophy and the self (Foucault, Ch. Taylor)
 - Optional : Sorabji, Intro and Part I, p. 1-53.
 - Optional: Foucault, Lecture of Jan. 6, 1982.
 - Optional: Taylor, Section I, part 2 (The Self in Moral Space); V, 25 (Conclusion).
- 2) 09/11 **On care for the self, the ‘true’ self (intelligence), self-knowledge, and the other as mirror**
 - 1- **Plato** : *The First Alcibiades*

2- **Aristotle** : intelligence as the true self, *NE*, X, 7, 1177a11-1178a10; the friend as 'another' self, *NE* IX, 4-9, 1166a-1170b19, *Magna Moralia*, XIII, 13-15, 1212a1-1213a30.
 - Optional : Foucault Lecture of Jan. 13, 1982 ; Sorabji, III, 6, p.115-136 ; V, 13, p. 230-244.

- 3) 09/18 **Plato on the divided/unified self**
 1- **Justice as inner harmony of the soul** : *Republic* IV, 434d-445e; the soul as a composite animal, *Rep.* IX, 588a-92b.
 2- **Self-identity through time and immortality** : the soul as a 'sea monster' and the myth of Er, *Rep.* X, 608c-621d ; *Symposium*, 201d-212d (Diotima's speech).
 - Optional : Taylor, II, 6 (Plato's Self-Mastery) ; Sorabji, II, 3, p. 57-82.
- 4) 09/25 **Aristotle and self-oriented virtues**
 1) **Moral virtues as self-oriented** : V, 1-3, 1129a-1130a-15 ; Can one be unjust toward oneself ?, *NE*, V, 12-15, 1136b14-1138b15 ; The 'great-souled' (magnanimous) man, *NE*, IV, 7-9, 1123a35-1125a35.
 2) **Moderation, self-control (and lack thereof)** : *NE* VII, 1-11, 1145a12-1152a35.
- 5) 10/02 **Plotinus, *Enneads* I, 1 (53) "What is the Living Being?"; V, 3 (49) "On the Knowing Hypostases and That Which is Beyond".** Optional: Sorabji, V, 11, p. 201-211; V, 14, p. 245-264.
- 6) 10/09 **Epictetus, *Discourses*, Books TBA.** Optional : Sorabji, IV, p. 157-197.
- 7) 10/16 **Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, Books TBA.** Optional : Sorabji, IV, p. 157-197 (same as class 6).
- 8) 10/23 **Korsgaard, *Self-Constitution*, Preface (p. xi-xiv) and chap. 1 to 3 included (p. 1-58).**
- 9) 11/06 **Korsgaard, *Self-Constitution*, chap. 4 to 6 included (p. 59-132).**
- 10) 11/13 **Korsgaard, *Self-Constitution*, chap. 7 to 10 included (p. 133-214).**
- 11) 11/20 **Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, Preface (p. ix-xviii) and chap. 1 and 2 (p. 1-61).** Optional: chap. 3.
- 12) 11/27 **Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, chap. 5 and 6, (p. 155-272).** Optional: chap. 4
- 13) 12/04 *Make-up class if needed (will be otherwise cancelled)*

IV – COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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| 1. Oral presentation (discussion facilitation).....: | 20% |
| 2. Discussion Prep. sheets.....: | 40% |
| 3. Final seminar report (or essay).....: | 20% |
| 4. Attendance and class participation.....: | 20% |

1. Oral 'presentation' (discussion facilitation):

Each student will be in charge of the discussion for one of our weekly meetings. In order to give a structure to our discussion, please follow these guidelines:

- a) Explain in one sentence the specific relevance/contribution of the text(s) you were assigned for our inquiry on the 'self'.
- b) Present two problems you were confronted with while reading the text(s) (either because some ideas were unclear or because you found them disputable).
- c) Present two ideas that were of special interest *to you* and explain why you found them especially stimulating.

Please provide each member of the seminar with a copy of your Discussion Outline so that we can examine it together and discuss it critically. **ONE PAGE MAXIMUM!**

2. Discussion Preparation sheets:

In order to prepare for our weekly meeting, each of you is asked to write a *Discussion Preparation Sheet* on the text(s) to be discussed that day. You will hand in this sheet at the end of the class and I will give it back to you at the beginning of next class. *Please keep all of them so as to hand them all back to me at the end of the semester.*

The sheet shall include the same three items listed above. For point 2 and 3, you can, however, limit yourself to one problem and one idea of special interest (instead of two each).

ONE PAGE MAXIMUM!!!

3. Seminar Final Report or Critical Essay:

The (a) seminar report or (b) critical essay (6 pages maximum) is due on Dec. 4th.

a) Seminar Final Report:

At the beginning of the semester, identify one specific question that you have concerning the self and submit it to me in written form (one ten lines paragraph minimum—one page maximum). In your final report, explain how the texts we have worked on over the semester contributed to answer that question, modify it, or make your position toward your initial question more complex. Note: you don't have to discuss all texts and may focus on the one(s) that seem the more relevant in light of your question.

b) Critical essay:

Alternatively, your final assignment can take the form of a critical discussion of an article written about the text. You are asked to write an in-depth analysis on a specific question raised in/by the text you orally discussed in the seminar. Instructions:

- Choose one article devoted to the text you were assigned (that seems especially interesting to you).
- Expose the main thesis defended in the article and discuss the article *critically*. (*Needless to say, in order to discuss the article critically, you must have an excellent understanding of the original text as such!*)

4. Attendance and class participation:

In order for this kind of seminar to work, it is important that everyone reads the texts assigned before our weekly meeting and actively takes part in discussions. Hence the 20% devoted to attendance and class participation.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam

requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735