

**PHIL 5000B  
PHILOSOPHY AND MONEY**

**PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN  
PA3A61 EXT 1783**

**OFFICE HOURS by appointment <geraldine.finn@carleton.ca>**

**DESCRIPTION**

What is money? What is its ontological status? What are the ethical, political and metaphysical presuppositions, foundations, implications, and ends of the 'being' of money? What is the relationship between the 'being' of philosophy (what constitutes philosophy) and the 'being' of money (what constitutes money)? This course will explore these questions through a close reading of selected chapters from the following texts.

**REQUIRED TEXTS.**

1. *The Economy of Literature*. Marc Shell. John Hopkins University Press, 1978.
2. *Symbolic Economies. After Marx and Freud*. Jean-Jospeh Goux. Cornell University Press, 1990.
3. *Money, Language and Thought. Literary and Philosophical Economies from the Medieval to the Modern Era*. Marc Shell. University of California Press, 1982.
4. *Making Money. The Philosophy of Crisis Capitalism*. Ole Bjerg. Verso Press, 2014.

All these books can be purchased from **Allbooks**, 327, Rideau Street, next to the Bytowne Cinema. Open 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9:00 pm Sun. Tel: 613 789 9544 (the # 7 bus takes you directly there). They are also available on reserve at the Library.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 10%).

**EVALUATION (provisional)**

Seminar 30% + Essay 40% + Final Exam 30%

**SEMINARS:** All students are responsible for at least one seminar presentation. Seminar instructions are attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual presentation(s) as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

**ESSAY: Due on or before 25 APRIL 2017** (hard copies only)

12 – 14 double-spaced typed pages on a topic of your choice to be determined in consultation with the professor.

**TAKE-HOME EXAM: Due on or before 25 APRIL 2017** (hard copies only)

Distributed in the last class of the semester.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- week 1**      **Introduction** and assignment of seminar responsibilities.
- week 2**      **The Origin of Money: The Origin of Philosophy**  
*The Economy of Literature* (Shell). Introduction + Chapter 1, The Ring of Gyges, pp. 1 – 30.
- week 3**      **Origin of Money . . . (cont'd)**  
*Economy*. Chapter 1, The Ring of Gyges (cont'd), pp. 30 – 62.
- week 4**      **The Relation of the Money Form to the Philosophic One**  
*Economy*. Chapter 2, The Language of Character, pp. 63 – 88.
- week 5**      **Father, Phallus, Language, Money. The Genesis of the Value Form**  
*Symbolic Economies* (Goux). Introduction + Chapter 1, Numismatics, pp. 1 – 38.
- week 6**      **Father, Phallus . . . (cont'd)**  
*Symbolic*. Chapter 1, Numismatics (cont'd), pp. 39 – 63.
- week 7**      **Logic is the Money of the Mind. The Universal Equivalent**  
*Symbolic*. Chapter 3, Monetary Economy and Idealist Philosophy, pp. 88 – 111.
- week 8**      **NO CLASS—WINTER BREAK** [read E. A. Poe's 'The Gold Bug']
- week 9**      **Making Something Out of Nothing. Paper Money: Substance & Sign**  
*Money, Language, Thought* (Shell). Chapter 1, The Gold Bug pp. 1 – 23 + 'The Gold Bug' by Edgar Allen Poe, available on-line, pp. 24.
- week 10**     **Like Money into the Bag one should be able to sweep truth into the head**  
*Money*. Chapter 6, What is Truth? Lessing's Numismatics and Heidegger's Alchemy, pp. 156 – 177 + Conclusion, pp. 179 – 187.

- week 11      The Philosophy of Finance: Imaginary, Real, Symbolic**  
*Making Money* (Berg). Introduction + Chapter 1, Analyzing Financial Markets pp. 1 – 45 + [optional] Chapter 2, Modern Finance and the Fantasy of Efficient Markets, pp. 48 – 78.
- week 12      Money Does Not Exist**  
*Making Money*. Chapter 3, Analyzing Money, pp. 81 – 114.
- week 13      Money in the Bank is as Good as Money in the Bank**  
*Making Money*. Chapter 4, Credit Money and the Ideology of Banking pp. 115 – 152.
- week 14      How is the Being of Money Today?**  
*Making Money*. Conclusion, Life After Debt – Revolution in the Age of Financial Capitalism, pp. 251 – 265 + [optional] Chapter 6, the Financialization of Money, pp. 193 – 249.

**DISTRIBUTION OF TAKE-HOME EXAM. DUE on or before 25 APRIL 2017**

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

1. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
2. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty** either of comprehension or agreement and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
3. Summarise the **principal argument** of the assigned reading(s) in 2 or 3 sentences.
4. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of all of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of the class.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

### **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
- 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 (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 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](mailto: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*). Requests made within two

weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. 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. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

### **Addresses:**

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