SYLLABUS for: Self Psychopathology Modern Age

SPRING 2008 ***

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Student syllabus, Rutgers University, Spring 2008

SELF, PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, AND THE MODERN AGE

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Course numbers: 18:820:560, also 16:195:519

**Last worked on January 21, 2008. This is somewhat tentative; a few changes will be made.

Books recommended for purchase:

Nietzsche, F. Birth of Tragedy and Genealogy of Morals.


In addition to required readings, some recommended readings are listed below.

See end of syllabus re certain assignments.

TBA = to be announced

Assignments (paper, possible class presentation): TBA.
PART ONE: ARTAUD, NIETZSCHE, FOUCAULT, AND THE NATURE OF MADNESS (3 classes)

CLASS #1: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE. ANTONIN ARTAUD.

In class:

Overview of the course.

Play parts of Artaud audiotape: “Pour en finir avec le jugement de dieu.”


Reading: Sass, Madness and Modernism (= MM), Prologue and Introduction, pp 1-39.

CLASS #2: NIETZSCHE AND FOUCAULT ON RATIONALITY AND MADNESS.

In class: Continue re Artaud. Discuss Nietzsche and Foucault (mention Derrida vs Foucault re Descartes).

Lecture: “Foucault on the history of madness.”

Reading:

Nietzsche, Birth of Tragedy, pp 19-36, 76-97.

Foucault, Mental Illness and Psychology, part II, pp 60-88 (= a summary of Foucault’s Madness and Civilization, more recently translated as History of Madness).

Foucault, excerpt from The Great Confinement, in History of Madness, pp. 44-55 (especially the first pages, re Descartes).

Foucault, The Birth of the Asylum, from Madness and Civilization, in Foucault Reader, pp 141-167.

Descartes, Meditations, synopsis and first meditation; second meditation is recommended reading, pp 15-41.
CLASS #3: PHENOMENOLOGY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

**In class:** Some introductory information re schizophrenia. Introduce perspectives of Minkowski, Blankenburg, Bin; Sass & Parnas.

**Reading:**


PART TWO: PHENOMENOLOGY

CLASS #4: PHENOMENOLOGY

**Reading:**

- Zahavi, Subjectivity and Selfhood: Investigating the First-Person Perspective (2005), Introduction & Chapters 1, 3, 5 (pp. 1-30, 49-72, 99-146).

  *TBA:* A brief introduction to phenomenology (Oxford Companion to Philosophy; Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy??).

CLASS #5: PHENOMENOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Colloquium and discussion with Dan Zahavi re phenomenology and the self.
PART THREE: SOME DISORDERS IN PHILOSOPHICAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE (4 classes)

CLASS #6: DEPRESSION

Reading:

Excerpts from Peter Kramer, Against Depression (2005) TBA.

Excerpts from Alan Horwitz and Jerome Wakefield, The End of Sadness: How Psychiatry Transformed Normal Sorrow into Depressive Disorder (2007) TBA.

CLASS #7: PUBLIC LECTURE RE DEPRESSION

If possible, attend public lecture/debate by Kramer/Wakefield (Wednesday, March 5, 1 to 2:30 pm; lecture hall on top floor of Alexander Library).

Reading: Use this time to read ahead. I suggest reading ahead for classes #8 and #13 especially.

CLASS #8: NARCISSISTIC DISORDERS

Reading:


Lasch, C., Culture of Narcissism (1979) Preface & chapters 1, 2 (pp. 17-103).

DSM IV and PDM criteria for narc pers


**CLASS #9: SCHIZOID PERSONALITY.**

**Reading:**


Excerpts from Laing, *Divided Self* (first published 1959/1960) chapters 1, 3, 4, 5 (pp. 17-26, 39-93).

DSM IV criteria for schizoid, schizotypal, and avoidant. PDM criteria for schizoid.


**PART IV: POSTMODERNISM; HEIDEGGER**

**CLASS #10: POSTMODERNISM: PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

**Lecture:** “’Hyped on Clarity’: Diane Arbus, Photography, and the Postmodern Condition.”

**In class:** Discussion of Jameson’s essay.
Reading:


Arbus, D., introduction to her photography collection


Brief excerpt from: Heidegger, The Origin of the Work of Art, in Basic Writings, read pp. 157-165 (the essay is on pp. 139-212), re Van Gogh’s peasant shoes painting.


Rec: Baudrillard, J. Simulacra and Simulations, in M. Poster (Ed.), Jean Baudrillard: Selected Writings, pp. 166-184 (note, only pp. 166-172 are assigned).

CLASS #11: MORE PHENOMENOLOGY: HEIDEGGER

Reading:

At least two Heidegger essays, from the following three:

Heidegger, The question concerning technology, in The Question concerning Technology and Other Essays, pp 3-35.

Heidegger, Age of the world picture, in The Question concerning Technology and Other Essays, pp 115-54 (read pp 126-134, 142; the rest is only suggested, and will probably be rather confusing)

Heidegger, What is metaphysics? In Basic Writings, pp 89-110 (read at least the first few pages).

PART V: SCHIZOPHRENIA, THE SELF, AND MODERNISM/POSTMODERNISM (4 classes)
CLASS #12: COGNITIVE SLIPPAGE and DISTURBANCES OF DISTANCE, IN SCHIZOPHRENIA AND MODERNISM/POSTMODERNISM:


Reading:


Nietzsche, On truth and lies in a nonmoral sense, in Philosophy and Truth (selections from notebooks of early 1870s), pp 79-91.

Robbe-Grillet, The secret room (a very short, short story), in Fiction 100, pp 901-903.


CLASS #13: DELUSION, SOLIPSISM, AND THE SUBLIME, IN SCHIZOPHRENIA AND MODERNISM/POSTMODERNISM:

Lecture: “Heidegger, schizophrenia, and the ontological difference”; or “Adolf Wolfli, Spatiality, and the Sublime”

Reading:

Sass, MM, Morbid Dreamer, pp 268-299; World Catastrophe pp 300-339.

CLASS #14: SCHIZOPHRENIA AND MODERNISM/POSTMODERNISM: CONTINUED:

In class: View parts of “Last Year in Marienbad,” film by Alain Resnais and Alain Robbe-Grillet; discuss.

Reading:

Sass, MM, first half of Conclusion: Paradoxes of the Reflexive (pp 324-339),

??: Sass, L. Foucault and modern self-reflection, manuscript in progress.


CLASS 15: COLLOQUIUM RE SELF-DISORDER IN SCHIZOPHRENIA (May 5)

Probable colloquium (to be confirmed): Psychiatrist Josef Parnas will present recent empirical research on self-disorders in schizophrenia.

Reading:


Parnas et al: To be announced.

Alternative Readings (if no colloquium):


Foucault, Discipline and Punish, excerpts in Foucault Reader, pp. 170-178, 214-224.