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Author:

dr hab. Adam Lipszyc, prof. IFiS PAN

**The Human in the 20th Century Philosophical Anthropology**

**THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS:** Contemporary philosophy, history of philosophy, philosophy of subjectivity, philosophy of language, philosophy of body, philosophy of time, philosophy of affects

**ASSESSMENT:**

- The course is obligatory for the students specializing in Philosophy and optional for all others
- The course to be conducted in English
- Credit requirements: Active Participation during the Course plus Final Essay

**COURSE AIMS AND CONTENT:**

20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy can be seen as an astonishingly rich collection of fresh, innovative visions of human subjectivity. In the past century various philosophers rebelled against simplified, overly rationalized visions of human being offered by early modern philosophy and the times of Enlightenment, while continuing and radicalizing certain trends of 19<sup>th</sup> century thought. In particular they tended to stress the significance of a few crucial dimensions: first, the importance of language for our subjective constitution; second, the importance of the bodily dimension of our selves; third, the importance of temporal axis of our lives; four, the importance of affects; five, sexuality. As a result they also came to appreciate and describe also such aspects of the human as mortality, memory, power and gender. Moreover, in the second half of the century, philosophers started to question the very idea of the human, announcing either the death of man or the coming of a new, posthuman perspective. The course offers a selective overview of the most exciting visions of the human developed within the 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy that can be still of much use in thinking about subjectivity within contemporary philosophy, as well as within sociology, cultural studies and human sciences in general.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:**

**Knowledge:**

- Participants are expected to acquire the knowledge of a selection of 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophical conceptions of the human..

**Skills:**

- Presenting various 20<sup>th</sup> century theories of humans subject
- Comparing the theories with each other

- Discussing and assessing the theories
- Applying the theories to examples taken from human sciences, art, literature and real life

**Social Competence:**

- Ability to present, discuss and argue for (as well as against) various notions of human subjectivity

**THE CLASSES AND READINGS:**

1. Consciousness, Time and Memory: Henri Bergson

Reading:

- Henri Bergson, *Mind-energy* (first three essays)

2. Phenomenological Mind: Edmund Husserl

Reading:

- Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*

3. Dasein, Mortality and Decision: Martin Heidegger I

Reading:

- Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time* (fragments)

4. Existence, Gaze and Others: Jean-Paul Sartre

Reading:

- Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (fragments)

5. Phenomenology of the Flesh: Michel Henry

Reading:

- Michel Henry, *Incarnation* (fragments)

6. Antihumanism: Martin Heidegger II

Reading:

- Martin Heidegger, *Letter on Humanism*

7. Subjectification and Care for Oneself: Michel Foucault

Readings:

- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality* (fragments)

8. The Subject of Responsibility: Emmanuel Levinas

–Emmanuel Levinas, *Substitution*

9. Being Singular Plural: Jean-Luc Nancy

Reading:

– Jean-Luc Nancy, *Being Singular Plural*

10. Subjectivity, Sexuality and Psychoanalysis: Alenka Zupancic

Reading:

– Alenka Zupancic, *Why Psychoanalysis?*

11. Gender and Body: Judith Butler

Reading:

– Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter* (fragments)

12. Subjectivity and Truth: Alain Badiou

Reading:

– Alain Badiou, *Ethics*

13. Nomadic Subjectivity: Rosi Braidotti

Reading:

– Rosi Braidotti, *Nomadic Subjects* (fragments)

14. Actor-Network and Reassembling the Social: Bruno Latour

– Reading: Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social* (fragments)