

SEMINAR: Interpreting and constructing – working with a philosophical text.

AUTHORS: dr Mikołaj Ratajczak (IFiS PAN), dr Marta Olesik (ISP PAN),
Under the supervision of dr hab. Andrzej Leder (IFiS PAN),
Interpreting and constructing – working with a philosophical text.

THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS: Theory of Interpretation, Theory of Writing, Rhetoric, Contemporary Philosophy.

ASSESSMENT:

- The course is available to all students (general course open to all students)
- The course to be conducted in English
- Prerequisites: knowledge in modern and contemporary philosophy; the level of master degree.
- Credit requirements: attendance, participation and the submission of an original essay are necessary for the credit. You can miss one meeting in a semester.

The course description

Interpreting and constructing the philosophical texts are skills necessary for any scholar preparing a thesis in philosophy, as well as in many other disciplines of the contemporary humanities and social sciences. When reading such a text, you must know the crucial questions to be asked. You must be capable of locating the text on the map of propositions put forward nowadays, you must understand the author's intention and comprehend how the context of the reception of his work determines the fate of his ideas. When writing, you must have the capacity to delineate the theoretical field in which you will operate and consciously use such instruments that will allow you to elaborate your rationale within that field. Every participant of the course will develop these skills by working on an important text of 20th century philosophy and preparing their own essays.

Learning outcomes likely to be achieved.

Students shall develop their capacity to understand and analyze texts of the contemporary humanities. They will train the skill of matching different paradigms and theoretical sources, but with care not to make categorical errors. They will prepare their own propositions and essays. As always the discussion of texts written by them will be an important element of common effort.

Knowledge:

- Awareness of the tools of philosophical – and more generally theoretical – analysis and interpretation.
- Understanding of their importance when constructing texts.

Skills:

- Capacity to ask the crucial questions when reading a philosophical (theoretical) text.
- Capacity to locate the text on the map of propositions put forward nowadays.
- Capacity to understand the author's intention and comprehend how the context of the reception of his work determines the fate of his ideas.
- Capacity to delineate the theoretical field in which the student will operate when writing.
- Capacity to consciously use such instruments that will allow the student to elaborate his/her rationale.
- Capacity to construct an original essay with a clear hypothesis and an adequate argumentation.

Social Competence:

- Ability to expose the prepared philosophical pronouncement to a group of listeners (skills of a lecturer).
- Skills in directing fruitfully a theoretical discussion.
- Skills in constructively participating in a theoretical exchange of ideas (academic dispute).

Basic bibliography

1. Edmund Husserl, *Logical Investigations*, pp. 40-131, transl. J.N. Findlay, Routledge & Kegan Paul, NY, 1970.
2. Martin Heidegger *Letter on Humanism*, transl. Timothy Quigley, in: *Basic Writings*, ed. David Farrell Krell, New York, Harper & Row, 1977.
3. Giles Deleuze, Felix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus. Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, transl. Robert Hurley, Mark Seem, Helen R. Lane. University of Minnesota Press, 1983.
4. Max Horkheimer, Theodor W. Adorno, "The Concept of Enlightenment", "Odysseus or Myth and Enlightenment". In: *Dialectic of Enlightenment. Philosophical Fragments*. Trans. Edmund Jephcott. Stanford: Stanford University Press 2002, p. 1-62.
5. Jürgen Habermas, "An Alternative Way out of the Philosophy of the Subject: Communicative versus Subject-Centered Reason". In: *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity. Twelve Lectures*. Trans. Frederick Lawrence. Cambridge: Polity Press 1990, p.294-326.
6. Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility: Second Version". Trans. Edmund Jephcott, Harry Zohn. In: *The work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility and Other Writings on Media*, ed. Michael W. Jennings, Brigid Doherty, Thomas Y. Levin. Cambridge MA-London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press 2008, p. 19-55.

7. Guy Debord, *Society of the Spectacle*. Trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith. New York: Zone Books 1994, p. 11-46.
8. Louis Althusser, „From *Capital* to Marx’s Philosophy”. In: Louis Althusser et. al., *Reading Capital. The Complete Edition*. Trans. Ben Brewster, David Fernbach. London-New York: Verso 2016, p. 15-61.
9. Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man. Studies in the ideology of advanced industrial societies*. London-New York: Routledge 2002, p. 127-203.
10. Jacques Derrida, *Limited Inc*. Trans. Samuel Weber. Evanston Il.: Northwestern University Press 1988. Together with: John Searle, “Reiterating the Differences: A Reply to Derrida”. *Glyph*, vol. 1 1977: 198-208.
11. Saul A. Kripke, *Naming and Necessity*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press 2001, p. 30-105.
12. Saul A. Kripke, *Wittgenstein on Rules and Private Language. An Elementary Exposition*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press 1982.
13. Willard Van Ormian Quine, “Two dogmas of empiricism”. In: *From a Logical Point of View. 9 Logico-Philosophical Essays*. New York: Harper Torchbooks 1963, p. 20-46.
14. Robert Brandom, *Between Saying and Doing: Towards an Analytic Pragmatism*. New York: Oxford 2008, p. 1-55.
15. John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice. Revised Edition*. Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of HUP, p. 102-168.
16. Hannah Arendt, *On Revolution*. London: Penguin Books 1965, p. 21-114.
17. Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*. Trans. George Schwab. Chicago: Chicago University Press 2005.
18. Ernesto Laclau, Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics*. London-New York: Verso, p. 93-148.
19. Theodor W. Adorno. “The Experiential Content of Hegel's Philosophy”. *Hegel: Three Studies*. Trans. Shierry Weber NicholSEN. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1993, p. 53-88.
20. Jacques Derrida. “Shibboleth: For Paul Celan”. Trans. Joshua Wilner. *Sovereignities in Question: The Poetics of Paul Celan*. Ed. Thomas Dutoit and Outi Pasanen. New York: Fordham University Press, 2005, p. 1-64.
21. Jacques Derrida. “The Pit and The Pyramid: An Introduction to Hegel's Semiology”. *Margins of Philosophy*. Trans. Alan Bass. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1986, p. 69-108.
22. Michel Foucault. *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*. London – New York: Routledge, 1989, p. XVI-XXIV, 3-18.
23. Martin Heidegger. *Nietzsche*. Vols. 3 and 4. Trans. Joan Stambaugh, David Farrell Krell, Frank A. Capuzzi. New York: HarperCollins, 1991, p. 3-9, 53-100.
24. Emmanuel Lévinas. *Otherwise than Being, or, Beyond Essence*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. New York: Springer, p. 1-20, 61-92.
25. Frédéric Lordon. *Willing Slaves of Capital: Marx and Spinoza on Desire*. Trans. Gabriel Ash. London – New York: Verso, 2014, Excerpts.
26. Jean-Luc Nancy. “Of Being Singular Plural”. *Being Singular Plural*. Trans. Robert D. Richardson and Anne E. O'Byrne. Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 2000, 1-100.
27. Alenka Zupančič. *The Odd One In: On Comedy*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 2008, p. 11-60.

