

Szymon Wróbel

SEMINAR: Philosophy in the Process of Making Concepts: Non-dialectical Negativity

Author:	Prof. dr hab. Szymon Wróbel	
	Philosophy in the Process of Making Concepts: Non-dialectical Negativity	
	WINTER Semester	SPRING Semester
HOURS	30	30
FREQUENCY	4 x 45 every two weeks	4 x 45 every two weeks

THE COURSE CORRESPONDS TO TOPICS: Contemporary philosophy, history of philosophy, history of ideas, social philosophy, political philosophy.

ASSESSMENT:

- The course is available to all students (General course open to all students)
- The course to be conducted in English
- Credit requirements: active participation in classes. The condition for passing is also writing an essay (15 pages of standardized typescript) related to the topic of the seminar. The essay is graded on a scale of 2 to 5.
- Time of classes: Monday
- Begins: 17:00
- Duration: 17:00-20:00 (4 x 45 minutes) every two weeks (for a total of 60 hours)
- Commencement date: October 23th
- The seminar will be held on the Zoom platform

COURSE AIMS AND CONTENT:

A new philosophy of “radical negativity” seems to have emerged in the last decade. This "radical negativity" is not subjected to sublimation, nor to dialectical logic, i.e. it never gets rid of its destructive element. Whether it is Deleuze's dark interpretation (Andrew Culp), cosmic pessimism (Eugene Thacker), feminist interpretation of "extinct theory" (Claire Colebrook), or subject of radical despair, "negativity" never becomes "tamed", ethically or politically subjugated. During the seminar I would like to reflect on this return of the "enemy", hostis, "partisan", "Queer subject", who refuses to enter his/her identity into the logic of the Hegelian "struggle for recognition". I would like to consider: what does this refusal mean? In what sense is it a rejection of politics and ethics as we know it? Andrew Culp writes that "Hostis is an exercise in partisanship. This partisanship is neither the work of fascists [...] nor martyrs [...]. Hostis is the struggle to be dangerous in a time when antagonism is dissipated. This is all because Hostis is the enemy". Do we have reason to worry about such a definition of the "subject of negativity"? What relation does the "subject of negativity" have to life itself? Does this subject of negativity say "no" to life? And why saying 'No' to life is unacceptable?

KNOWLEDGE TO BE ACQUIRED:

Participants are expected to acquire two types of knowledge: (1) orientation in the philosophy, (2) orientation in contemporary ways of interpreting series of concepts such as idea, concept, technique of thinking, rationality, argumentation, discussion, public debate.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

Knowledge:

- Improved knowledge on the place and role of the humanities, the social, exact and natural sciences in early and contemporary culture;
- Comprehensive understanding of the terminology of the humanities and social sciences and knows how to use it;
- Knowing in depth the relationships among different humanities disciplines studying works of art in culture and the sociological context of cultural activity;
- Knowing and understanding the main methods of analysing and interpreting products of culture in conjunction with tradition;
- Having good organized knowledge on the main trends in philosophical and social thought in a historical and contemporary perspective.

Skills:

- Selecting and interpreting information from different textual, iconographic and electronic sources;
- Analysing artistic, philosophical and sociological texts using the appropriate research tools, and presenting the results of such work;
- Basic research skills enabling the formulation of research problems from the humanities, philosophy, literature, and arts;
- Basic skills in using interdisciplinary research methods and tools to analyse phenomena of contemporary culture;
- The capacity to take part in conferences, symposia and discussions on literary, artistic and philosophical topics.

Social Competence:

- Understanding the dynamics of scientific, cultural and social development and keeping up with new research methods and paradigms;
- Understanding the principles of tolerance and cultural differences;
- Understanding the importance of Europe's cultural diversity and heritage;
- Participating actively in cultural and social life taking advantage of all forms offered by media, the arts and science

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSES AND CORRESPONDING LITERATURE:

- 1-2. **Andrew Culp, Eva Della Lana, Jose Rosales: Recognition and its Discontents or Theses on the Politics of Cruelty**

Readings: Andrew Culp, Eva Della Lana, Jose Rosales, *Hostis 2. Beyond Recognition*. LBC Books, Ardent Press 2016. Andrew Culp, Eva Della Lana, Jose Rosales, *Hostis 1*. LBC Books, Ardent Press 2015.

3-4. The Legacy of Carl Schmitt: Criminality As Hostility

Readings: Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*. Trans. Schwab, George. Chicago. University of Chicago Press 1985. Carl Schmitt, *Theory of the Partisan: Intermediate Commentary on the Concept of the Political* . trans. G. L. Ulmen, Telos Press, 2007

5-6. Andrew Culp 1: Underground Philosophy or We Are Bad, but We Could Be Worse

Readings: Andrew Culp, *A Guerrilla Guide to Refusal*, University of Minnesota Press 2022.

7-8. Andrew Culp 2: The Extinction of Being or Breakdown, Destruction and Ruin

Readings: Andrew Culp, *Dark Deleuze*, University of Minnesota Press, 2016.

9-10. Claire Colebrook: Difference, Time and Organic Extinction

Readings: Claire Colebrook, *Sex After Life: Essays on Extinction*, Vol. 2, Open Humanities Press, 2015. Claire Colebrook, *Death of the PostHuman. Essays on Extinction*, Open Humanities Press, 2015.

11.12. Eugene Thacker: After Life

Readings: Eugene Thacker, *Cosmic Pessimism*, with drawings by Keith Tilford, Univocal Publishing, 2015. Eugene Thacker, *After Life*, University Of Chicago Press, 2010.

13-14. Jean-Pierre Dupuy: The Rationality of Doomsaying or Memory of the Future

Readings: Jean-Pierre Dupuy. *How to Think About Catastrophe: Toward a Theory of Enlightened Doomsaying*, Michigan State University Press, 2023.