



History of Western Philosophy II



PHIL-2050 - Course Outlines

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The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Semester: Fall 2012 Time: 14:30-17:15 (T07-09) Venue: LSK210

- **Main Topics of this course**

- I. Introduction: Recapitulation of some hitherto underlying philosophical problems as a preparation for forthcoming topics
- II. René Descartes
- III. Baruch de Spinoza
- IV. Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
- V. John Locke
- VI. George Berkeley
- VII. David Hume
- VIII. Immanuel Kant
- IX. G.W.F. Hegel
- X. Karl Marx
- XI. Friedrich Nietzsche
- XII. Final summary and Revision



- **Bibliographies:**

- A. Text for History of Western Philosophy
- B. Other related references

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- I. Introduction: Recapitulation of some hitherto underlying philosophical problems that linger on in subsequent development of the history of philosophy
 1. The notion of "history of philosophy" revisited: (*Begriffsgeschichte* and *Problemggeschichte*)

2. The *Ionian* tradition vs. the *Eleatic* tradition
3. The double criteria of truth: reason and belief
4. Theodicy and the problem of evil
5. Controversy over the primacy of will and intellect
6. Problem of universals - controversy between realism and nominalism
7. Problem of individuals- *peras, tode ti, principium individuationis, haecceitas*, existential *solus ipse*
8. *Subject* and *person* in antiquity and in modern philosophy
9. Natural law vs. positive law - the *physis/nomoi* distinction
10. Questions concerning periodization and nomenclature in the historiography of philosophy



II. René Descartes (*1596, †1650)

1. A brief sketch of Descartes' life
2. Philosophical doctrines
 - a. Concept of method
 - b. Sources of error
 - c. Discovery of the "ego"
 - d. Proof of the existence of God
 - e. Existence of external things
 - f. Mind-Body problem
 - g. Mind-Body Interaction
 - i. *The Passions of the Soul*
 - ii. Controversy with William Harvey
 - iii. Occasionalism: Geulinux' and Malebranche's feedback
3. Descartes and the origin of modernity

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK ]



III. Baruch [Benedictus] de Spinoza (*1632, †1677)

1. A brief sketch of Spinoza's life
2. Philosophical doctrines
 - a. Some preliminary ideas for the understanding of Spinoza
 - i. Critique of Cartesianism (Letter to Oldenburg)
 - ii. 1st vs. 3rd person perspective
 - iii. Concept of "adaequate knowledge"
 - b. Structure and detail analysis of the *Ethics*
 - I. Of God
 - II. Of the Nature and Origin of the Mind
 - III. Of the Original Nature of the Affects
 - IV. Of Human Bondage, or the Strength of the Affects
 - V. Of the Power of the Intellect, or of Human Freedom

- c. Religious-Political doctrines: *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*
- 3. Spinoza as rationalist, as pantheist, and as sage
- 4. The place of Spinoza in the history of western philosophy: predecessors and influence

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IV. **Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz** (*1646, †1716)

- 1. A brief sketch of Leibniz' life
- 2. Leibniz' "motto"
- 3. Leibniz as "renaissance man": Interests and contributions of Leibniz other than philosophy
- 4. Philosophical doctrines
 - a. Classification of knowledge
 - b. Concept of substance - "force"
 - c. Concept of substance - "metaphysical point"
 - d. Concept of substance - "monads"
 - e. Doctrine of truth
 - f. Law of sufficient reason
 - g. Principle of the best
 - h. Pre-established harmony and divine retribution
 - i. Tranquility of the mind -reminiscence of Spinoza
- 5. Individualism and universalism in Leibniz: Russell, Heimsoeth, Mahnke

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK 



V. **John Locke** (*1632, †1704)

- 1. A brief sketch of Locke's life - Locke as philosopher and as statesman
- 2. Theory of knowledge and of mind
 - a. Epistemological vs. metaphysical approaches
 - b. Criteria of knowledge
 - c. Doctrine of "ideas"
 - d. Doctrine of external things
 - e. Doctrine of the mind
 - f. Primary and secondary qualities
 - g. "Representational realism"
- 3. Political theory
 - a. *Essay on the Law of Nature*
 - b. *Two Treatises on Government*
- 4. The Influence of Locke

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK 



- VI. **George Berkeley** (*1685, †1753)
1. A brief sketch of Berkeley's life
 2. Theory of knowledge and of the mind
 - a. Berkeley's theory of vision and its philosophical implications
 - b. Berkeley's reiterations on secondary and primary qualities
 - c. Material substance
 - d. Doctrine of the mind
 - e. Notion of God
 - f. Immaterialism
 - g. Philosophy of language and common sense philosophy
 3. Political and economic thoughts
 - a. *The Querists*
 - b. Theory of money
 - c. International Trade vs. national economy
 - d. Criticism of mercantilism

Library links: - [CU 



- VII. **David Hume** (*1711, †1776)
1. A brief sketch of Hume's life
 2. Theory of knowledge and mind
 - a. The Origin of human perception - impressions and ideas
 - b. Derivation of complex ideas
 - c. Concept of substance
 - d. Cause and effect
 - e. Problem of mind and personal identity
 - f. Scepticism
 3. Theory of passions and morality
 - a. Passions and intellect
 - b. Moral sentiments
 - c. Personality and the moral being
 4. Theory of religion
 - a. *Natural History of Religion*
 - b. *Dialogues concerning Natural Religion*
 5. Kant on Hume: homage and critique

Library links: - [CU 



- VIII. **Immanuel Kant** (*1724, †1804)
1. A brief sketch of Kant's life
 2. Philosophical doctrines

- a. *Philosophia in sensu scholastico* vs. *philosophia in sensu cosmico*
 - b. Concept of "Critique" (*Kritik*)
 - c. Idea of transcendental philosophy (*Transzendentalphilosophie*)
 - d. Kant's concept of experience (*Erfahrung*)
 - e. Main tenets of Kant's problem of knowledge
 - f. The two major issues in Kant's philosophy of practice
 - g. Kant's theory of taste
 - h. Kant's position toward metaphysics
 - i. Kant's philosophy of religion
 - j. Kant and philosophical anthropology
3. Kant's influence and contemporary criticisms

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK ]



IX. **Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel** (*1770, †1831)

1. A brief sketch of Hegel's life
2. Philosophical doctrines
 - a. Hegel's concept of "experience"
 - b. Different models of Hegelian *dialectics*
 - . Love
 - i. Negation:- pure negativity, specific negation, negation of the negation
 - ii. Abstract and Concrete
 - iii. *An-sich, Für-sich, and An-und-für-sich*
 - iv. Immediacy and Mediation (*Unmittelbarkeit und Vermittlung*)
 - v. Reflexion
 - vi. *Aufhebung*: (*tollere, elevare and conservare*)
 - vii. Three Moments of the Logical
 - c. The notion of "system" and Hegel's system thinking
 - d. Hegel's *Encyclopedia of Philosophical Sciences*
 - . Hegel's *Logic*
 - i. *Realphilosophie* as "Applied Logic"
 - e. Hegel's philosophy of history
 - f. Hegel's philosophy of right
 - g. Hegel and "German Idealism"
3. Hegel's place in the history of Western philosophy and contemporary criticisms

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK ]



X. **Karl Marx** (*1818, †1883)

1. A brief sketch of Marx's life: Marx as philosopher or as political activist?
2. Major doctrines as related to major writings

- a. *A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*
 - b. The 1844 *Paris Manuscripts*
 - c. Marx's controversy with his contemporaries
 - . *Holy Family*
 - i. *German Ideology*
 - ii. *The Poverty of Philosophy*
 - d. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*
 - e. The *Capital* as a theoretical programme
3. Marx's influence and contemporary criticisms

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK ]



XI. Friedrich Nietzsche (*1844, †1900)

1. A brief sketch of Nietzsche's life
2. Philosophical doctrines
 - a. Primacy of will over intellect: Schopenhauer's influence
 - b. Greek tragedies and the "yes" attitude towards life
 - c. Attack of Christianity as cultural critique
 - d. Some major conceptions
 - . Resentiment
 - i. Revaluation of values
 - ii. The Overman and "will to power"
 - iii. European nihilism
 - iv. Eternal recurrence of the same (*das ewige Wiederkehr des Gleichen*)
 - v. Love of Fate (*Amor fati*)
 - vi. The "malady of history" (*die Krankheit der Geschichte*)
 - e. Nietzsche's influence and contemporary criticisms

Library links: - [CU ] - [HK ]



Bibliographies:

L. Text for History of Western Philosophy

1. Mathias Bertram, (ed.) *Geschichte der Philosophie. Darstellungen, Handbücher, Lexika*, ausgewählt von Mathias Bertram. Digitale Bibliothek Band 3 (Berlin: Directmedia, 1998)
2. Rüdiger Bubner, ed., *Geschichte der Philosophie in Text und Darstellung*, hrsg. von 8 Bände (Stuttgart: Reclam, 1995)
3. François Châtelet, (ed.) *Geschichte der Philosophie (Histoire de la philosophie)*. Translated into German (Frankfurt/Main: Ullstein, 1974)

4. Frederick Copleston SJ, *A History of Philosophy*, in 8 vol. (New York: Image Books, 1964) (*)
5. Otfried Höffe, *Kleine Geschichte der Philosophie* (München: C.H. Beck, 2001)
6. Julián Marías, *History of Philosophy*, transl. from the Spanish by Stanley Appelbaum and Clarence C. Strowbridge (New York: Dover, 1967)
7. John C. Plott with James Michael Dolin *et al.*, *Global History of Philosophy*. Vol. 1-5 (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1963-1989)
8. Bertrand Russell, *History of Western Philosophy and its Connection with Political and Social Circumstances from the Earliest Times to the Present Day* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1946/61) (*)
9. Friedrich Ueberweg, *Grundriss der Geschichte der Philosophie*. Völlig neubearbeitete Ausgabe, Band 2, 4/1, 4/2 (Basel: Schwabe & Co. 1998ff)
10. Karl Vorländer, *Geschichte der Philosophie*, 2 Bände (Leipzig: Felix Meiner, 1911).
11. Alfred Weber, *History of Philosophy*, transl. By Frank Thilly (New York: Scribners & Sons, 1908)
12. Wilhelm Windelband, *History of Philosophy : with especial reference to the formation and development of its problems and conceptions. (Lehrbuch der Geschichte der Philosophie)* (New York: Dover, 1905) (*)
13. Eduard Zeller, *Grundriss der Geschichte der griechischen Philosophie*. English. *Outlines of the history of Greek philosophy*. 13th ed., rev. by Wilhelm Nestle and translated by L. R. Palmer (New York : Meridian Books, 1955)



M. Other related references

1. Ernst Bloch, *Zwischenwelten in der Philosophiegeschichte* (Stuttgart: Suhrkamp, 1977)
2. Ernst Bloch, *Neuzeitliche Philosophie* (Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 1985)
3. Jacques Brunschwig and Geoffrey Lloyd, *Das Wissen der Griechen. Eine Enzyklopädie* (München, Wilhelm Fink, 2000), being a german translation by Volker Breidecker *et al.* of the French original *Le savoir grec. Dictionnaire critique* (Paris:Flammarion, 1996)
4. Ernst Cassirer, *Das Erkenntnisproblem in der Philosophie und Wissenschaft der neueren Zeit*. 4 Bände (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1973 - 1974; Reprint of 2nd edition), [Written between 1906 & 1941]
5. Heinz Heimsoeth, *Die Methode der Erkenntnis bei Descartes und Leibniz* (Giessen: Verlag von Alfred Töpelmann, 1912-14)
6. Heinz Heimsoeth, *Studien zur Philosophiegeschichte*. Kant-Studien Ergänzungsheft, Nr. 82 (Köln: Kölner Universität-Verlag, 1961)
7. Heinz Heimsoeth, *Die sechs großen Themen der abendländischen Metaphysik* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1981). Now also in English: *The six great themes of western metaphysics and the end of the Middle Ages* (Wayne State University Press, 1994)
8. Elmar Holenstein, *Philosophie-Atlas: Orte und Wege des Denkens* (Zürich: Ammann Verlag, 2004)

9. T.W. Hutchison, "Berkeley's *Querist* and Its Place in the Economic Thought of the Eighteenth Century", in: *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 4, No. 13, George Berkeley Bicentenary, pp. 52-77.
10. Richard Kroner, *Von Kant bis Hegel*. 2. Auflage (Tübingen: Mohr- P. Siebeck, 1961)
11. Richard Kroner, *Speculation and revelation in modern philosophy*. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1961)
12. Karl Löwith, *From Hegel to Nietzsche : the Revolution in nineteenth-century Thought*. Translated from the German by D.E. Green (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964)
13. John C. Plott with James Michael Dolin *et al.*, *Global History of Philosophy*. Vol. 1-5 (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1963-1989)
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15. Joachim Ritter und Karlfried Gründer (ed.), *Historisches Wörterbuch der Philosophie* (Basel: Schwabe, 1985ff)
16. Wilhelm Weischedel, *Die philosophische Hintertreppe*. 5th ed. (München: DTV, 1979).
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22. Tze-wan Kwan, "The Role of the Historian of Philosophy: Some
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for Phenomenology & Contemporary Philosophy, held January 23-24, 2006, at
the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Pending publication.



Please note that, for a thorough understanding of the history of philosophy, students are always encouraged to go through the original texts of the respective philosophers as much as possible. For more detail information please look up the [Philosophy Page](#) of the Humanum Web Site. Of particular interest is our [Kant Page](#), now featuring Norman Kemp Smith's translation of the *Critique of Pure Reason* (with an online searchable index). The Humanum server is also keeping a host of images related to the history of philosophy. Please look up our [Image Archive](#) if interested. Furthermore, an online information platform "[CU Philosophy Information Databases \(CUPID\)](#)" has been made available since summer 2001. Students are encouraged to make good use of the resources put there.



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