

# 20TH CENTURY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY (PHIL 423)

Manchester College, Spring 2009

**Instructor:** Dr. Steve Naragon [office: Ad Bldg., #231c; phone: — office: 982-5041, home: 982-6033]

## Required Texts

- (1) W. T. Jones & Robert J. Fogelin, *The Twentieth Century to Quine and Derrida* (3rd ed.).
- (2) Charles Guignon and Derk Pereboom, ed., *Existentialism: Basic Writings*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Hackett, 2001).
- (3) Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Logico-Philosophical Tractatus* (various editions and translations available)

## Additional Readings (available online)

- Moore, George Edward, “The Refutation of Idealism” in *Mind* (1903), reprinted in his *Philosophical Studies* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1922).
- Russell, Bertrand, “Logic as the Essence of Philosophy” in *Our Knowledge of the External World*, 2nd ed. (LaSalle, IL: Open Court Press, 1929), pp. 35-63. 1st ed: (1914, pp. 33-59). Delivered as the Lowell Lectures (Boston, 1914).
- Gottlob Frege, “On Sense and Reference” (1892) [“Über Sinn und Bedeutung,” in *Zeitschrift für Philosophie and philosophische Kritik*, 100 (1892), 25-50.
- , “The Thought” (1918) [originally: “Der Gedanke” in *Beiträge zur Philosophie des Deutschen Idealismus* (1918/19), translated as “The Thought: a Logical Inquiry” in *Mind*, 65: 289-311 (1956)]
- Edmund Husserl, “Phenomenology” in *Encyclopedia Britannica* (1927).

## Requirements and Grading



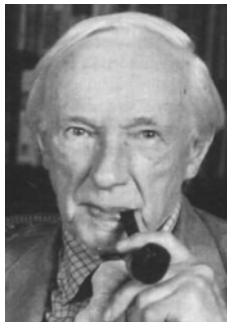
**Readings.** Read the assignments *closely* prior to class, and *always bring the text*. Class discussions and your success in this class depend upon this.

**Attendance.** Truth may well be a social construction. If it is, then the inquiry into truth is best pursued as a social activity. If truth is not a social construction, then it is still best pursued socially, as objective reality is rarely if ever the same as plain appearance, and so our only criterion of the real, it seems, will be intersubjectivity. So whatever the nature of truth, it's clear that

everyone needs to show up to class, on a regular basis, if we are to harbor any hopes of finding it. Thus the following policy: Five absences (excused or otherwise) are allowed. After that, each additional absence (of any kind) results in a 1% drop in course grade, apart from any intangible penalties such as absenteeism entails.



**Short exegetical exercises to be written before breakfast.** About once every week there will be a 1-2 page exegetical essay assigned (concerning — at most — a few pages of text). Essays must be typed, proofread, and with proper citations, but otherwise should not involve more than a few hours of your time. Staple your pages together, but avoid title pages, covers, or other peripheral junk. Papers are graded on spelling, grammar, punctuation, and clarity of style, but I'm primarily interested in how well you can tackle a bit of text or philosophical question on your own and make sense of it. Late papers are drastically penalized.



**Class Presentation.** Each student will give a brief intellectual biography of a philosopher not otherwise on the syllabus, and facilitate class discussion on a short text by that philosopher. In addition, each student will present the intellectual biography of one of the philosophers on the syllabus.

**Essay Exams.** There will be three take home essay exams, with a weekend for writing them.

**Grading.** The three in-class exams will each be worth 22% of the course grade; the group of exegetical essays is worth 24%; the class presentations are each worth 5%.



## SCHEDULE OF DISCUSSION AND READING

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Thu, Feb 5

Introduction to the Course

- Read: Jones, chs. 1-2 (as background).

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***G. E. Moore***

- Read: Jones, ch. 3 + Moore, “The Refutation of Idealism” (1903).

Tue, Feb 10

Thu, Feb 12

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***Gottlob Frege***

- Read: Jones, ch. 4 + Frege, “On Sense and Reference” (1892) + Frege, “The Thought” (1918/19).

Tue, Feb 17

Thu, Feb 19

Tue, Feb 24

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***Bertrand Russell***

- Read: Jones, ch. 5 + Russell, Logic as the Essence of Philosophy” (1914).

Thu, Feb 26

Tue, Mar 3

Thu, Mar 5

**Tue, Mar 10**

**1<sup>st</sup> Exam**

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***Ludwig Wittgenstein: Tractatus***

- Read: Jones, ch. 6 + Wittgenstein, *Tractatus* (1921)(selections).

Thu, Mar 12

Tue, Mar 17

Thu, Mar 19

--- Spring Break ---

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***Edmund Husserl***

- Read: Jones, ch. 8 + Husserl, “Phenomenology” (1927).

Tue, Mar 31

Thu, Apr 2

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***Martin Heidegger***

- Read: Jones, ch. 9 + GP, general introduction (“The Legacy of Existentialism”) + introduction to Heidegger selections + Heidegger, *Being and Time* (1927)(selections).

Tue, Apr 7

--- Easter Break ---

Tue, Apr 14

Thu, Apr 16

**Tue, Apr 21**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Exam**

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***Jean-Paul Sartre***

- Read: Jones, ch. 10 + GP, introduction to Sartre selections + Sartre, “The Humanism of Existentialism” (1946) + Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (1943) (selections)

Thu, Apr 23

Tue, Apr 28

Thu, Apr 30

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***Later Wittgenstein***

- Read: Jones, ch. 11.

Tue, May 5

Thu, May 7

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***Ordinary Language Philosophy***

- Read: Jones, ch. 12.

Tue, May 12

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***W. V. O. Quine***

- Read: Jones, ch. 13.

Thu, May 14

**Finals Week**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Exam**