

Syllabus

PH 881 – TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY – Fall 2007
Monday 4:00-7:00, room STH 541 (Matchette Library)

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Office: room 624, School of Theology
Office hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30; W. 1-2; Thursday 4:00-5:00; and by appointment

This seminar is devoted to a critical examination of one member of the family of philosophical and political movements that called itself "the Enlightenment." Our focus is Rousseau (1712-1778), and we will read several of his major texts. We will also consider the complex dialectic between Rousseau, Hume, and Smith about the virtues and vices of the Enlightenment. Contemporary philosophical work will be read in conjunction with these texts, putting the historical and contemporary into dialogue. This seminar is required of all first year PhD students, and is open only to them. Particular emphasis will be placed on developing research skills, public presentation skills, the ability to formulate a clear and concise argument, the use of secondary sources, and an understanding of what it means to prepare a paper for publication in a refereed journal.

REQUIRED BOOKS (available in paperback at the University bookstore)

- 1) Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings*, ed. V. Gourevitch. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-42445-3 (or ISBN 978-0-5-2142445-5)
- 2) Rousseau, *Emile, or On Education*, trans. A. Bloom. Harper Pub/Basic books. ISBN 0465019315 (or ISBN 978-0-4-6501931-1)
- 3) Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Hackett Press, trans. D. Cress. ISBN 0872201627 (or ISBN 978-0-8-7220068-5)
- 4) Rousseau, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker*, trans. C. Butterworth. Hackett Press. ISBN 0872201627 (or ISBN 978-0-8-7220162-0)
- 5) Rousseau, *The Confessions*, ed. P. Coleman. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN 0192822756 (or ISBN 978-0-1-9282275-8)
- 6) Griswold, C. *Adam Smith and the Virtues of Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999
- 7) Hume, D. *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*. Ed. Miller. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1987. ISBN 978-0-8-6597056-4
- 8) Smith, A. *Essays on Philosophical Subjects*. Ed. Wightman. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press. ISBN 0865970238
- 9) Smith, A., *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Ed. Raphael and Macfie. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1982. ISBN 0865970122

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- 10) Ignatieff, M. *The Needs of Strangers*. Picador Press: 1984 (VHPS). ISBN 978-0-3-1228180-9
- 11) Smith, A. *An Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations*. Ed. Campbell and Skinner. Rpt. Indianapolis: Liberty Press, 1976. ISBN 978-0-8-6597006-9
- 12) Hume, D. *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*. Ed. J. B. Schneewind. Hackett Press. ISBN 0-915145-45-6
- 13) Gauthier, D. *Rousseau: the Sentiment of Existence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006

Additional texts will be distributed to students during the semester.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

**[1] Sept. 10 Arts, Sciences, and Virtue:
a challenge to the Enlightenment**

- (a) Rousseau, *First Discourse* [originally published 1751], pp. 3-28; in the CUP volume, ed. Gourevitch.
- (b) Rousseau, "Preface to Narcissus," pp. 92-106 in the Gourevitch volume.
- (c) Griswold, Introduction to *Adam Smith and the Virtues of Enlightenment* (pp. 1-39)
- (d) D. Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*, essay II, "Of Refinement in the Arts," pp. 268-280

[90 pp. total]

Recommended: the Introduction to the CUP volume, by Gourevitch (pp. ix–xxxi)

[2] Sept. 17 Self-estrangement and the Enlightenment

- (a) *Second Discourse*, pp. 113-222. [orig. published 1755]
- (b) Justin D'Arms' article on envy in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/envy/>
- (c) A. Smith's *Essays on Philosophical Subjects*, pp. 242-256
(Smith's discussion of Rousseau's *Second Discourse*)

[roughly 133 pages total]

Recommended: Ignatieff, *The Needs of Strangers*, ch. 3 ("Metaphysics and the Market"), pp. 83-103

[3] **Sept. 24 Commerce and Virtue**

- (a) Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*, Pt. I, essay XIV, "On the Rise and Progress of the Arts and Sciences," pp. 111-137
- (b) Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*, Pt. II, essay I, "Of Commerce," pp. 253-267
- (c) Gerald Gaus and Shane Courtland's "Liberalism as a Political Theory" at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/liberalism/#Oth>
- (d) A. Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, book V, pp. 788-814 (on the political problem of religion; the social role of religion in commercial society)
- (e) Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* pt. I, pp. 50-66 (the pursuit of wealth)

[roughly 123 pages total]

Recommended: Griswold, *Adam Smith*, ch. 7, pp. 259-301

[4] **Oct. 1 Social Contract theory**

- (a) *On the Social Contract* (pp. 17-103) [orig. published 1762]
- (b) Fred D'Agostino's "Contemporary Approaches to the Social Contract" at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/contractarianism-contemporary/>
- (c) Ann Cudd's "Contractarianism" <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/contractarianism/>
- (d) D. Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*, Essay XII, "Of the Original Contract," pp. 465-487
- (e) David Hume's *Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* section III ("Of Justice"), pt. I (pp. 20-26 in the Hackett edition).

[roughly 133 pages total]

[Oct. 8 class cancelled (university holiday)]

[5] **Oct. 9** (a Tuesday = Monday schedule of classes).

Perfectionism, idealism, utopianism
(and a chance to review and further discuss the readings thus far)

- (a) Ignatieff, *The Needs of Strangers*, ch. 4, 5 ("The Market and the Republic," "Homelessness and Belonging"), pp. 107-142
- (b) Griswold, *Adam Smith*, ch. 7, pp. 301-310
- (c) Hume's *Essays: Moral, Political, & Literary*, Pt. II, essay XVI, "Idea of a Perfect Commonwealth," pp. 512-529.
- (d) Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 227-237 (on politics and theory; the "man of system")

[roughly 62 pages total]

[6] Oct. 15 Sympathy, empathy, ‘pitié’

- (a) Rousseau, *Emile*, pt. IV, pp. 211-266 [orig. published 1762]
- (b) A. Smith’s *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pt. I (pp. 9-66); pt. VII pp. 314-317
- (c) Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, pp. 52, 61-64

[roughly 122 pages total]

[7] Oct. 22 Sympathy, empathy, ‘pitié’ (cont.)

- (a) S. Darwall, “Sympathetic Liberalism: Recent Work on Adam Smith.” In *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 28.2 (1999): 139-164. Available through JSTOR:
<http://www.jstor.org/view/00483915/dio20043/02p0030y/o?currentResult=00483915%2bdio20043%2b02p0030y%2b0%2c00&searchUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jstor.org%2Fsearch%2FBasicResults%3Fhp%3D25%26si%3D1%26gw%3Djtx%26jtxsi%3D1%26jcpsi%3D1%26artsi%3D1%26Query%3Daa%253A%2522Stephen%2BDarwall%2522%26wc%3Don>
- (b) S. Darwall, “Empathy, Sympathy, Care,” in *Welfare and Rational Care* (Princeton University Press, 2002), ch. 2, pp. 50-72
- (c) Griswold, *Adam Smith*, ch. 2, pp. 76-96

[roughly 57 pages total]

[8] Oct. 29

- (a) Rousseau, *Emile*
 - book I, pp. 39-40 (human nature and civilization)
 - book II, pp. 80-83 (happiness and mortality); p. 85 (nature and freedom); p. 92 (our natural goodness); p. 110 (R.’s self-characterization as author of the book)
 - book III, pp. 165 (moral weakness); pp. 192-193 (state of nature); p. 208 (amour propre).

[12-13 pages total]

(b) write about one of these issues (length: **two** typed pages), and think about them all; track down at least one other secondary source relevant to your topic, and incorporate it into your answer as appropriate.

- 1) how exactly do these notions of sympathy, empathy, and pitié, differ from each other?
- 2) where would Rousseau’s “pitié” fit (if at all) into Griswold’s classificatory scheme in *Forgiveness* (pp. 83-90)? Explain.
- 3) for Smith and for Rousseau, what is the connection between sympathy (or, pitié) and the emotions?
- 4) for Smith and for Rousseau, what is the connection between sympathy (or, pitié) and moral assessment?

[9] Nov. 5 Virtue, religion, goodness

- (a) Rousseau, *Emile* bk. IV, the “Profession of Faith of the Savoyard Vicar” (pp. 266-314). (48 pages total)
- (b) J. Cohen, “The Natural Goodness of Humanity,” pp. 102-139 in *Reclaiming the History of Ethics* (38 pp.)
- (c) S. Neiman, “Rousseau on the problem of Evil,” pp. 140-169 in *Reclaiming the History of Ethics* (29 pp.)

[Nov. 12, no classes]

[10] Nov. 19 Love, unity, and solitude

- (a) *Emile* book IV, pp. 337-341 (4 pages); bk. V (pp. 357-480) (127 pages)
- (b) “Love as a Moral Emotion,” by D. Velleman, in *Self to Self*, pp. 70-109. (40 pp.)
- (c) Plato’s *Symposium* 210a-212c; Plato’s *Phaedrus* 246a-257b

[roughly 188 pages total]

Recommended: Griswold, *Adam Smith* ch. 4, pp. 147-155

[Nov. 21-25, Thanksgiving break]

[11] Nov. 26 Narrative of and by self

- (a) *Confessions* bk. I (pp. 3-43), II (pp. 44-85). (80 pages total) [written mostly 1769, posthumously published 1782-9]
- (b) P. de Man, “Excuses: *Confessions*,” ch. 12 in *Allegories of Reading* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1979), pp. 278-301. (23 pp.)
- (c) D. Velleman, “The Self as Narrator,” in *Self to Self* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 203-223. Available in html, as it appeared in article form: [http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:3Df-3OrAY6AJ:www-personal.umich.edu/~lormand/phil/teach/mind/readings/Velleman%2520-%2520The%2520Self%2520as%2520Narrator%2520\(on%2520Dennett\).pdf+David+Velleman,+%22the+self+as+narrator%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us](http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:3Df-3OrAY6AJ:www-personal.umich.edu/~lormand/phil/teach/mind/readings/Velleman%2520-%2520The%2520Self%2520as%2520Narrator%2520(on%2520Dennett).pdf+David+Velleman,+%22the+self+as+narrator%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us) (20 pages)
- (d) P. Goldie, “One’s Remembered Past: Narrative Thinking, Emotion, and the External Perspective,” *Philosophical Papers* 32 (2003): 301-319. Available at: <http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/disciplines/philosophy/about/staff/goldie/documents/One's%20remembered%20past.pdf> (18 pages)

[roughly 141 pages total]

[12] **Dec. 3** **Narrative and self (cont.)**

- (a) *Confessions* bk. III, pp. 86, 94, 100-101, 110, 126-127; bk. XII, pp. 616, 624-625, 630-631; pp. 643-649 (the Appendix). (18 pages total)
- (b) D. Velleman, "Narrative Explanation," *Philosophical Review* 112 (2003): 1-25.
Available through JSTOR
<http://www.jstor.org/view/00318108/sp060001/06x0002b/o?currentResult=00318108%2bsp060001%2b06x0002b%2b0%2cFF7FFFo3&searchUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jstor.org%2Fsearch%2FBasicResults%3Fhp%3D25%26si%3D1%26gw%3Djtx%26jtxsi%3D1%26jepsi%3D1%26arts%3D1%26Query%3Ddavid%2Bvelleman%252C%2Bnarrative%2Bexplanations> (25 pp.)
- (c) P. Goldie, "Narrative and Perspective; Values and Appropriate Emotions." In *Philosophy and the Emotions*, ed. A. Hatzimoysis (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 201-220. Draft available at:
[http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:99pWAY5MjhoJ:www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/disciplines/philosophy/about/staff/goldie/documents/Narrative%2520and%2520perspective%2520-%2520values%2520and%2520appropriate%2520emotions.doc+\"Narrative+and+Perspective%3B+Values+and+Appropriate+Emotions.\"&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us](http://64.233.167.104/search?q=cache:99pWAY5MjhoJ:www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/disciplines/philosophy/about/staff/goldie/documents/Narrative%2520and%2520perspective%2520-%2520values%2520and%2520appropriate%2520emotions.doc+\) (19 pp.)
- (d) Griswold, "Forgiveness, Narrative, and Ideals," pp. 98-110 in *Forgiveness*. (18 pp.)

[roughly 80 pages total]

[13] **Dec. 10** **The Philosopher in modernity:
the fate of the contemplative life**

- (a) *Reveries* # 1-10 (pp. 1-143) [orig. published 1782, posthumously]
- (b) Griswold, "Plato's Metaphilosophy," in *Platonic Writings, Platonic Readings*, ed. C. Griswold (New York: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1988): 143-67. (24 pp).

[roughly 166 pages total]

Questions for discussion:

- 1) What is philosophy, for Rousseau?
- 2) How does his conception of philosophy affect his modes of writing (indeed, his decision to write at all?)
- 3) What, if any, is the connection between philosophy, as he understands it, and morality?
- 4) What, if any, is the connection between philosophy, as he understands it, and consolation in the face of misfortune?

Recommended: Griswold, *Adam Smith*, ch. 8 (pp. 344-349); Epilogue (pp. 361-376).

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

(a) a one page paper (double spaced) due at the start of each class (twelve papers total, as that for the first class will not be counted toward the grade), explaining the argument—or a central argument—of one of the readings or a section thereof. Please bring 6 copies for the other members of the class. It is anticipated that you will be asked to read your analysis to the group, and defend it, at least every other class. In any case, the instructor will read and grade all the one page papers. (40% of the final grade)

Late papers will be docked one full grade for each day they are late. (A paper is late if it is turned in after the start of class on the day it is due.) Electronic submissions will not be accepted unless there is an emergency. (Printer problems do not qualify as emergencies.)

(b) A term paper of about 10 pages in length, double spaced. You must clear the topic with the instructor in advance. The paper is due Dec. 17 at noon in my office (you may also leave it by then in my department mailbox). (40% of the final grade)

(c) this seminar places great emphasis on class participation; it is assumed that you will attend all sessions, come well prepared to contribute, and participate every class. (20% of the final grade).

(d) you must attend at least two philosophy colloquia offered by the Department during the Fall semester, preferably ones somehow connected to our theme.

SOME WEB RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH IN PHILOSOPHY

(nb: some of the most recent issues of these resources are available only in the library, not on-line)

- To search BU's libraries: <http://library.bu.edu/> (includes ability to search libraries of other institutions)
- For a useful list of links to philosophy databases, see the link through the BU library site:
http://www.bu.edu/dbin/ejournals/esources/display5xyPD.php?gu_id=96&index=96^Philosophy
- Bibliographies: see the APA site, <http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/asp/bibliographies.asp>
- Répertoire bibliographique de la philosophie (<http://www.rbif.ucl.ac.be/rbif-en.html>)
- Revue Philosophique de Louvain (<http://www.uclouvain.be/34348.html>)
- French libraries: <http://www.uclouvain.be/16002.html>
- JSTOR (journal articles on line) <http://www.jstor.org/>
- The Philosopher's Index (<http://www.philinfo.org/>); for hardcopy, see Mugar library.

For free access, try

http://www.bu.edu/dbin/ejournals/esources/display5xyPD.php?gu_id=96&index=96^Philosophy

The Index provides summaries of many articles (it seeks to be comprehensive).

- on line papers by many contemporary philosophers: <http://phonline.org/index.php>
and <http://www.ssrn.com/> (the social science reprint network, but has philosophy papers too)
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/>
- The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>
- An extensive site for philosophy related searching:
<http://www.epistemelinks.com/>
- electronic text sources:
 - (a) <http://sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de/phil/sites/etext-prov.html>
 - (b) <http://www.fred.net/tzaka/leaves.html>
 - (c) <http://www.apa.udel.edu/apa/asp/e-texts.asp>
- a helpful search engine for philosophy texts, events, etc.:
<http://noesis.evansville.edu/bin/index.cgi>
- a helpful site for checking philosophy journals:
http://users.ox.ac.uk/~worco337/phil_journals.html