

PHH 4600 – CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY
Dr. Howe

Course Description:

This course introduces students to historical developments of twentieth century philosophical thought. The course begins by exploring the process philosophies of Bergson, Dewey and Whitehead as rooted in the paradigm of Kantian philosophy. These philosophers will serve as a background for the examination of contemporary philosophical thought. Focus will be placed on the positions of Moore, Frege, Russell and Wittgenstein.

Course Objectives:

1. Understanding the historical context of ideas in twentieth century philosophy.
2. Identification and explication of philosophical themes.
3. Comparison and contrast of ideas across philosophical positions.
4. Understanding the methodology and design of philosophical arguments.
5. Articulating in written form the concepts presented in contemporary thought.
6. Learning how to think critically.

Texts:

Jones and Fogelin, editors: *The Twentieth Century to Quine and Derrida*

Class Work:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to have read assigned material before each class. Readings will be assigned to supplement class lectures and discussions. Students should be prepared to discuss reading material in class. Outline of topics to be covered:

- I. The Kantian Paradigm
- II. Process Philosophy
 - A. Bergson
 - B. Dewey
 - C. Whitehead
- III. Moore and Common Sense Realism
- IV. Frege: Language and Meaning
- V. Russell: Logical Construction
- VI. The Early Wittgenstein: *Tractatus*
- VII. Logical Positivism: The Verifiability Principle
- VIII. The Later Wittgenstein: *Philosophical Investigations*

Tests:

There will be two tests: one mid-term essay and one final essay.

Grading:

The final course grade will be based on the cumulative grades of the two essay examinations, each counting for 50%.