

Ewa Domanska
Spring 2005
Research Seminar (graduate: 5 units)
Wednesday, 6.15-9.05, 320-221
CASA 344; FrenGen 344; CompLit 344



ETHICAL CRITICISM POSTSTRUCTURALISM, FEMINISM, PSYCHOANALYSIS

Course description

This course considers different theories of the ethics of inquiry in the humanities and human sciences in the light of postmodernist challenges to traditional notions of value, subjectivity, and action. It poses the question of the relevance of various approaches to ethics to the practices of the human and social sciences. Specific topics will include issues of legality and morality, and notions of authenticity, sincerity, truthfulness and forgiveness. The course will give special attention to contemporary preoccupations within the human sciences concerning problems of heritage, relationship to the other, ethics of research and various codes of professional ethics.

Course requirements

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three meetings (except for illness or others serious matters) will not be graded. Students are expected to read assigned readings carefully and participate in discussions. A 15-20 pages final paper is required. Its topic will be chosen by the student himself/herself. It can draw upon work being done in other classes but must utilize the materials of this course as well.

Course schedule

March 30

1. Introduction: overview of the course.

April 6

2. Ethics and postmodern condition – historical background

- Zygmunt Bauman, *Postmodern Ethics*. Blackwell, 1993.
 - Jean Paul Sartre, "Bad faith" (fragment from *Being and Nothingness*), in *Jean-Paul Sartre: Basic Writings*, ed. by Stephen Priest. London and New York: Routledge, 2001 (see also: [readings](#))

April 13

3. The Ethical Turn in the social sciences and humanities and ups and downs of Ethical Criticism

- *Mapping the Ethical Turn: A Reader in Ethics, Culture, and Literary Theory*, ed. Todd F. Davis and Kenneth Womack. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2001 (Preface, Daniel Schwarz "A Humanistic Ethics of Reading", Wayne C. Booth, "Why Ethical Criticism Can Never be Simple", Martha C. Nussbaum, "Exactly and Responsibility").
- Lawrence Buell, "In Pursuit of Ethics". *PMLA*, vol. 114, no 1, January 1999.
- Michael Eskin, "The Double 'Turn' to Ethics and Literature?" *Poetics Today*, vol. 25, no 4, Winter 2004.
- Marshall Gregory, „[Ethical criticism: what it is and why it matters](#)”. *Style*, Summer 1998.

- Robert Eaglestone, *Ethical Criticism: Reading After Levinas*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1997 (chapter 1: "Ethics and the End of Criticism")
 - Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (see: [readings](#))

April 20

4. Ethics and aesthetics

- *Aesthetics and Ethics*, ed. by J. Levinson. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998 (Jerrold Levinson, "Introduction: aesthetics and ethics"; Arthur C. Danto, "The naked truth")
- Wolfgang Iser, *Unodding Aesthetics*, transl. by Andrew Inkpin. London: Sage, 1997 (fragments)

April 27

5. Feminist ethics

- Nel Noddings, *Caring: A Feminine Approach to Ethics and Moral Education*. University of California Press, 2003.
- *An Ethic of Care: Feminist and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, ed. by Mary Jeanne Larrabee. Routledge, 1992.

May 4

6. Ethics and the Other

- Emmanuel Lévinas, *Totality and Infinity: an Essay on Exteriority*. The Hague: Nijhoff, 1979 (fragments)
- ---, *Otherwise than Being or Beyond Essence*. The Hague: Nijhoff, 1981 (fragments)
- Alain Badiou, *Ethics. An Essay on the Understanding of Evil*. London, New York: Verso, 2002.

May 11

7. Ethics and memory

special guest: Hayden White

- Avishai Margalit, *The Ethics of Memory*. Cambridge, Mass.; London: Harvard University Press, 2002.
- Friedrich Nietzsche, "Guilt, Bad Conscience and Related Matters," in his, *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*, trans. Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale. New York: Vintage Books, 1967.
- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958, chapter V, & 33 and 34.
- Paul Ricoeur "Memory and Forgetting" in *Questioning Ethics. Debates in Contemporary Philosophy*, Richard Kearney and Mark Dooley (eds). London: Routledge, 1999.
- Jacques Derrida, "Le siècle et le pardon." *Le Monde des Débats*, no 9, Décembre 1999. [[text online in English](#)] transl. into English (minus the interviewer's questions) as Jacques Derrida, "On Forgiveness" (1999) in *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*. London and New York: Routledge, 2001.

May 18

8. Ethics and art

- Ella Peek, "[Ethical criticism of Art](#)", *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- *Between ethics and aesthetics: crossing the boundaries*, ed. by Dorota Glowacka and Stephen Boos. Albany : State University of New York Press, c2002 (selected essays)
- Berys Gaut, "The ethical criticism of art," in *Aesthetics and Ethics*, ed. by J. Levinson. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998.

May 25

9. Ethics in archaeology and anthropology

- *Embedding Ethics*, ed. by Lynn Meskell and Peter Pels. Berg, 2005.
- Karen D. Vitelli, *Archaeological Ethics*. Altamira Press, 1996.
- Colin Renfrew, *Loot, Legitimacy and Ownership: The Ethical Crisis in Archaeology*. Gerald Duckworth & Company, 2001.

- Ethics in American Archaeology: Challenges for the 1990s, ed. by Alison Wylie and Mark J. Lynott. Society for American Archaeology, 1995.
- Ethics and Anthropology: Facing Future Issues in Human Biology, Globalism, and Cultural Property, ed. by Anne-Marie Cantwell, Eva Friedlander, Madeleine L. Tramm. New York, 2002.
- Peter Pels, "Professions of Duplexity, A Prehistory of Ethical Codes in Anthropology." *Current Anthropology*, vol. 40, no 2, April 1999.

June 1

10. Psychoanalysis as Ethical Criticism

- Melanie Klein, „Love, Hate and Reparation”, in Melanie Klein and Joan Riviere, *Love, Hate and Reparation* . New York and London: Norton,
- C. Fred Alford, *Melanie Klein and Critical Social Theory: An Account of Politics, Art, and Reason Based on Her Psychoanalytic Theory*. Yale University Press, 1989 (fragments)
- R. D. Hinshelwood, *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. London : Free Association Books, 1989.

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