

New Course

Spring 2007

Research Seminar (graduate: 5 units)

Thursdays, 4:15-7:05 p.m. bldg: EDUC 207

CASA 326 - FrenGen 326



Continental Philosophy and the Human Sciences: The Self and the Oppressive Other

The course will examine the problem of the self and the other as it was approached by influential European (mostly French) philosophers in the second half of the 20th century representing Neo-Marxist critical theory, hermeneutics, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism and feminist theory. It will not seek a comprehensive review of the philosophical work of these scholars but it will focus on gaining an understanding of certain selected texts from each of them. While this may give only a partial introduction to these thinkers, we will stress skills in reading primary philosophical works that can only be achieved by careful consideration of specific texts. We will discuss the radical critique of traditional accounts of knowledge, human nature, the rational subject, and ethics while focusing on various approaches to the problem of the relationship between the self and the other, and on how the other, originally considered as liberating, becomes oppressive and troubling.

Readings will include: Alain Badiou, Jean Baudrillard, Silvia Benso, Rosi Braidotti, Michel Foucault, Martin Heidegger, Jacques Lacan, Bruno Latour, Emmanuel Lévinas, Julian Thomas, Slavoj Žižek.

First meeting: Thursday, April 5th, 4:15 p.m., bldg: EDUC 207

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