Course Unit Outline

Unit Code

W7310
Unit Name

From Kant to Postmodernism

Unit Weighting

9cps

Type of Unit

Specialised

Prerequisites, corequisites

W7106 and W7109

Academic Staff

Dr Matthew Del Nevo. BA (AppSocSci) (Lanchester 1980), BD Hons (Sydney 1991), GradDipRE (ACU 2001), PhD (Sydney 1996)

Curriculum Objectives

This unit examines the critical tradition of philosophy in the modern period that has largely defined itself over and against religion and authority. This unit provides an important background for the study of modern theology.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

- a) Compare the thought of major figures of the period
- b) Situate that thought in its historical context
- c) Analyse and interpret primary texts
- d) Identify different types of phenomenology and existentialism and post-modernism
- e) Relate the ideas of the period to developments in Christian theology

Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit

The plural nature of major philosophical trends: phenomenology, existentialism, postmodernism

Content

- 1. Close reading of primary texts
- 2. Phenomenology in Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer and Husserl
- 3. Existentialism (e.g. Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre)
- 4. Philosophers associated with the 'linguistic turn' and their precursors (e.g. Moore and Wittgenstein; Heidegger and Derrida)
- 5. Postmodernism (e.g. Lacan, Deleuze, Foucault, Vattimo)

Learning Activities

Private study, lectures, seminars, tutorials.

Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment

Internet access

Assessment Profile

Assessments tasks are designed both to help students attain the unit outcomes and to enable teachers to assess student attainment. In this unit, assessment of student achievement with respect to the Unit Outcomes will be based on:

- 1. Essay identifying and comparing phenomenological schools [Outcomes a, b, c]
- 2. Analysis of different kinds of texts of existentialism [Outcomes b, c, d]
- 3. Essay or seminar in chosen focus area of interest. [Outcomes a, e]

Representative References

- 1. Adorno, Theodor, and Max Horkheimer. *Dialectic of Enlightenment.* Translated by J. Cumming. London: Verso, 1989.
- 2. Deleuze, Gilles. *Anti-Oedipus Capitalism and Schizophrenia* (with Felix Guattari) Translated by R. Hurley et. al. New York: Viking Press, 1977.
- 3. Derrida, Jacques. *Of Grammatology*. Translated by G. C. Spivak. Baltimore & London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976.
- 4. Heidegger, Martin. Basic Writings. Edited by D. Krell. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.
- 5. Husserl, Edmund. *Logical Investigations*. [1900-1901] London: Routledge. New York: Humanities, 1970.
- 6. Jasper, D. A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics. Louiseville KY: WJK, 2004.
- 7. Kant, Immanuel: *Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone*. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1960.
- 8. Kristeva, Julia. The Incredible Need to Believe. New York: Columbia, 2009.
- 9. Moran, Dermot, Introduction to Phenomenology. London: Routledge, 1999.
- 10. Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Modern Times: Selected Non-Fiction*. Tr. R. Buss. London: Penugin Modern Classics. 2000.
- 11. Wittgenstein, Ludwig. *Philosophical Investigations*. Translated by G. E. M. Anscombe. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 1958.