

Philosophy 657

Seminar in Social & Political Thought:

Adorno's *Negative Dialectics*

Winter 2011

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Office Hours: M 4:30-5:30, T 1-3pm, and by appointment

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Description

In this course, we will pursue a close reading of most of Adorno's *Negative Dialectics*.

Requirements

Students who participate in both quarters of the course will be required to write one 18-20 page paper on any topic related to the text. This paper should be written on the basis of research, i.e., having read some scholarship related to the text, to Adorno, and to the topic under consideration. I will be happy to help you locate some resources for your work.

Students who are only participating in the first quarter will be required to write a 10-12 page research paper.

I will be happy to discuss topics with you and to read and comment on drafts, as long as they are submitted in a timely fashion. Incompletes will not be allowed.

Although the class has decided not to do presentations, students are still expected to come prepared and to participate in discussions in class.

Reading Schedule

The list below gives the Section names taken from the Ashton translation. If you are using the German, you should be able to easily find these sections. They are not clearly marked *within* the body of the text, but they are the headers across the top of the pages. Since many will be using the German or some alternate translation, I have not used page numbers.

Part Three

Section One: Freedom

January 4: "Pseudoproblems" through "The Impulse before the Ego"

January 11: "Experimenta Crucis" through "Dialectical Definition of the Will"

January 18: "Contemplation" through "Self-Experience of Freedom and Unfreedom"

January 25: "The Crisis of Causality" through "Universal and Individual in the Philosophy of Morals"

February 1: "On the State of Freedom" through "Truth Content of the Doctrine of Intelligibility"

Section Two: World Spirit and Natural History

February 8: "Trend and Facts" through "Popular Spirit Obsolete"

February 15: "Individuality and History" through "History and Metaphysics"

February 22: "After Auschwitz" through "Nihilism"

February 29: "Kant's Resignation" through "Neutralization"

March 7: "Only a Parable" through "Self-Reflection of Dialectics"