

# Topics in 20<sup>th</sup>-century Philosophy: Jean-Luc Nancy

Course number PHIL-448/547

Prerequisite: 6 cr. In PHIL, 3 of which at the 200-level or Consent of the Department

Fall 2010 Tuesday 14:00-16:50 ASH 2-02A

Instructor: Prof. Marie-Eve Morin

Office Hour: M 1:00-3:00

or by appointment

Office: ASH 3-45

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## • Course Description:

This seminar will provide an introduction to the work of Jean-Luc Nancy. We will start by reading essays from *The Inoperative Community*, *A Finite Thinking*, *The Sense of the World*, and *Birth to Presence* in order to get a grip on the central concept of Nancy's thinking: sense, finitude, body, world, sharing, exposition, etc. The selection will depend on the interests and background of the students in the class. Then we will read what is probably Nancy's most popular book: *The Creation of the World or Globalization*. At the end of the course, if there is still time and again depending on the interests of the students in the class, we might read some of Nancy's essays on art, painting or music.

## • Required Texts:

- Photocopies of essays available on eClass and in the department office
- *The Creation of the World* available at the U of A Bookstore

## • Assignments and Grades:

Participation (10%), Summaries (4 x 5% = 20%), Short Explication Paper (30%), Final Paper (40%)

### 1. Participation

At least beginning of each class (or each half class), I will ask you what questions you have about the text (concepts or sections of the text you find difficult, ideas you find interesting or puzzling and want to discuss further). To receive participation points, you have to email me your questions before Tuesday 10 am.

### 2. Summaries (5% each)

Four times during the term you will have to write a summary of the reading. This summary should be **very** short (200-300 words maximum) and capture the central idea of the text. At the beginning of the class, the students who wrote summaries will be asked to read them to the class.

### 2. Short Explication Paper (30%) due on October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

During the semester, you will have to write a short explication paper (6-8 pages). It will consist in an "explication" (a conceptual unfolding) of a short section (a couple of sentences to a paragraph) of central importance. You will not need to present an original thesis in this paper but you should still organize your reading around a central point you find particularly interesting or puzzling. You will not need to do research and read any secondary sources. A detailed handout will be provided with the topic in class on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Final Paper (40%) due December 14 at 2:00 p.m.

The final paper (10-15 pages for people registered in 448; 15-20 pages for people registered in 547) will be on a topic of your choice approved by me. You be allowed to reuse the explanations or definitions you provided in the Explication paper as long as these are well integrated into your paper. Note that this does not mean that you can use materials from this course in papers for other courses. If you quote entire section of your paper for my class in another class you have to add a reference to the course (i.e. your own paper in my class).

#### • Extensions & Late Papers:

An extension for a paper can only be granted for serious reasons and **if you contact me before the due time** (that is: not at the beginning of the class on which the paper is due!) **Late papers** will be penalized 4% (or one letter grade) for every day (24 hours) they are late. Papers will not be accepted more than 5 days after the deadline. Being busy is not a serious reason for being granted extension.

#### • Submission of Assignments:

You can submit your papers in class, in my mailbox in the Department Office ASH 2-43 during regular hours. Don't slip it under my door since I will not know when it got there.

#### • eClass:

To access eClass, click on the link on the University webpage and type in your username and password. On eClass you can (among other things):

- get a copy of any **handout** (including this syllabus and the reading schedule)
- get the **readings**
- consult the **course calendar** for deadlines
- check for **announcements** made in class
- post **comments and questions** on the course or on the readings
- check your unofficial **grades**

Grading Scale: (you will be graded by letters, numbers are only there to facilitate calculating your final grade)

A+ ≥ 92-100%	B+ ≥ 80-84	C+ ≥ 68-72	D+ ≥ 55-60
A ≥ 88-92	B ≥ 76-80	C ≥ 64-68	D ≥ 50-55
A- ≥ 84-88	B- ≥ 72-76	C- ≥ 60-64	F < 50

#### • Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standard of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. In particular, not that "No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student's own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study" (Code of Student Behaviour, §30.3.2(1)). **This applies to all information you find on the internet, whether it is signed by its author or anonymous.**

# Tentative Reading Schedule

(with lots of free space if we fall behind...)

date	first half	second half
Oct. 19	Finite Thinking and Finite History questions	<i>The Creation of the World</i> chap. 1 (Urbi et Orbi) Cody Andrew
Oct. 26	<i>The Creation of the World</i> chap. 2 (Of Creation)  Michael Lin Tony	<i>The Creation of the World</i> chap. 3 (Creation as Denaturation)  Andrew Tony
Nov. 2	“Atheism and Monotheism” in <i>Dis-Enclosure</i>  Connor Moly Hande	“Deconstruction of Monotheism” in <i>Dis-Enclosure</i>  Lin Miranda Connor
Nov. 9	“Image and Violence” in <i>The Ground of the Image</i>  Miranda Andrew	short selections from <i>The Sense of the World</i>  Connor Michael Cody
Nov. 16	“Responding to Existence” in <i>A Finite Thinking</i>  Yasemin Andrew Moly	“In Praise of the Meleé” in <i>A Finite Thinking</i>  Michael Lin
Nov. 23	“War, Right, Sovereignty--Techne” in <i>Being Singular Plural</i>  Miranda Evan	“Politics I and II” in <i>The Sense of the World</i>  Tony
Nov. 30		
Dec. 7		