

A. Davidson
Winter, 2010
773-702-9849

Contemporary European Philosophy and Religion

Introduction (1 session)

The Critique of Humanism (2 sessions)

Martin Heidegger, "Letter on Humanism", on reserve from *Basic Writings*

The Ethics and Politics of Humanism (5 sessions)

Emmanuel Lévinas, "Is Ontology Fundamental", *Basic Philosophical Writings*
"Philosophy and the Idea of Infinity", on reserve from *Collected Philosophical Papers*
"Transcendence and Height", *Basic Philosophical Writings*
"Enigma and Phenomenon", *Basic Philosophical Writings*
"Transcendence and Intelligibility", *Basic Philosophical Writings*

Jacques Derrida "On Cosmopolitanism", *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*

Philosophy as a Way of Life and the Practice of Spiritual Exercises (3 sessions)

Pierre Hadot, "Spiritual Exercises", *Philosophy as a Way of Life*
"Ancient Spiritual Exercises and 'Christian Philosophy'",
Philosophy as a Way of Life
"Philosophy as a Way of Life", *Philosophy as a Way of Life*
The Present Alone is Our Happiness. Conversations with Jeannie Carlier and Arnold I. Davidson, Chapters 3, 6-10

The Problem of Humanism After Auschwitz (4 sessions)

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (Original Italian title: *If This is a Man*)
"Force Majeur", on reserve from *The Mirror Maker*

Religion and Ethics After Auschwitz (2-3 sessions)

Hans Jonas, "The Concept of God After Auschwitz: A Jewish Perspective", on reserve from *Mortality and Morality*

Emmanuel Lévinas, "Useless Suffering", on reserve from *Rethinking the Other*
"Dying for. . .", on reserve from *Entre Nous*

The Possibility of Forgiveness (1-2 sessions)

Vladimir Jankélévitch, "Should We Pardon Them?" on reserve from *Critical Inquiry*,
Spring, 1996

Jacques Derrida, "On Forgiveness", *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness*

Requirements: All undergraduates are required to attend a discussion section. There will be a midterm (taken in class) and a final paper of 12-15 pages for both undergraduate and graduate students. Papers must be written on a topic covered on the syllabus. Students who are able to do so are encouraged to read the texts in the original language.

If you need to contact me, do not send me e-mail. Leave a phone message or a note in my mailbox.

No late papers, no incompletes.