Derrida (PHIL 7229)
Fordham University, Spring 2014

Professor: Samir Haddad
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Office: Collins Hall 110
Office Hours: Monday 11:00-1:00, Thursday 12:00-2:30, and by appointment
Class Times: Thursday, 2:30-4:30, in the Collins Hall conference room

Description: This course aims to provide a survey of Jacques Derrida's writings, early through late. We will begin with a selection of Derrida's works from the late 1960s, focusing in particular on his deconstruction of the speech/writing distinction, his notion of différance, and his engagement with the traditional understanding of time. Next we will follow a sequence of texts on the concept of foundation, beginning with Derrida's reading of Austin's speech act theory, passing through some of his writings on education, and culminating in his work on law and justice. Finally, we will read some of Derrida's texts on the gift, hospitality, and forgiveness.

Texts: Available at the Rose Hill bookstore:


All other assigned readings will be available on Blackboard.

Assessment: Weekly response
Research paper

*Weekly response*: Each week you are required to email me a response to the reading by 9am Thursday. This can be of any length.


Schedule:

January 16 Introduction
Excerpt from "Positions"
"Choosing One's Heritage" in *For What Tomorrow*


23 "Plato's Pharmacy" Part I, in *Dissemination*
Plato, *Phaedrus*, esp. 274b-279c

*Recommended*: Norris, from "Derrida on Plato: Writing as Poison and Cure" in *Derrida*, pp. 28-45
Naas, "A Given Take: The Platonic Reception of Plato in the Pharmacy" in *Taking on the Tradition*
"Plato's Pharmacy" Part II, in Dissemination
Plato, Phaedrus, esp. 274b-279c

Recommended: Norris, from "Derrida on Plato: Writing as Poison and Cure" in Derrida, pp. 28-45
Naas, "A Given Take: The Platonic Reception of Plato in the Pharmacy" in Taking on the Tradition

February 6
"Différance" in Margins of Philosophy
"The Original Discussion of 'Différance'" in Wood and Bernasconi (eds.) Derrida and Différance

Recommended: Deutscher, "Différance" in How to Read Derrida

13 “Ousia and Grammē", in Margins of Philosophy
Recommended: Heidegger, Being and Time, §§6, 81-83 (pp. 19-27, 420-437)
Aristotle, Physics, IV 10-14
Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Sec 2 of the Trans. Aesthetic (pp. B46-B58)
Hegel, Philosophy of Nature, §§253-259 (pp. 28-40)
Protevi, "The Circle and the Trace: 'Ousia et Grammē'" in Time and Exteriority

20 "Signature Event Context" in Margins of Philosophy
Austin, from How to Do Things with Words, pp. 1-24, 94-108, 133-147

Recommended: Selections from "Limited Inc. a, b, c…" in Limited Inc
Searle, "Reiterating the Differences"
Howells, "Language: Speech and Writing" in Derrida

27 "Declarations of Independence" in Negotiations
"Otobiographies" in The Ear of the Other

Recommended: Honig, "Declarations of Independence: Derrida and Arendt"

March 6
"Mochlos, or the Conflict of the Faculties" in The Eyes of the University: Right to Philosophy 2
From "Privilege: Justificatory Title and Introductory Remarks" in Who's Afraid of Philosophy? Right to Philosophy 1, pp. 1-42

Recommended: Kant, from "The Conflict of the Faculties"
Orchard, "The Insistence on Philosophy" in Jacques Derrida and the Institution of Philosophy
Haddad, "Derrida and Education"

13 "Force of Law: The 'Mystical Foundation of Authority" in Acts of Religion
Benjamin, "Critique of Violence"

Recommended: Fritsch, selection from The Promise of Memory
20  No class - Spring Break

27  Given Time: 1. Counterfeit Money, Chapters 1-2
    Recommended: Mauss, from The Gift

April 3  Given Time: 1. Counterfeit Money, Chapters 3-4

10  Of Hospitality

17  No class - Easter Break

24  "Hostipitality", in Acts of Religion

May 1  "To Forgive: The Unforgivable and the Imprescriptible" in Caputo et al. (eds.) Questioning God.
      "On Forgiveness: A Roundtable Discussion with Jacques Derrida" in Caputo et al. (eds.) Questioning God.

8  To be determined.