French Philosophies of Education (PHIL 6215)
Fordham University, Spring 2012

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Class Times: Friday, 1:00-3:00, in the Collins Hall conference room.

Description: In this course we will read texts by Pierre Bourdieu and Jean-Claude Passeron, Jacques Derrida, Michèle Le Dœuff, and Jacques Rancière, examining issues in the philosophy of education. The aim of the course is threefold – to gain a comprehensive understanding of the educational milieu in which post-WWII French philosophers studied and taught, to explore philosophical questions related to the learning and teaching of philosophy, and to reflect on our own practices as students and teachers. Particular attention will also be paid to the political dimensions of these theories of education.

Texts: Available at the Fordham University Bookstore.


All other assigned readings are available on Blackboard.

Assessment: Weekly responses
Paper presentation
Research paper

Weekly response: Each week you are required to email me a response to the reading by Thursday 6pm. This can be of any length.

Paper presentation: At the end of the semester everyone will present a version of their research paper. The presentations will take place either over two weekly sessions or, if scheduling permits, on a single day.

Research paper: A 16-20 page paper due at the end of the semester.

Schedule:

Jan 20 Schrift, “Understanding French Academic Culture,” from Twentieth Century French Philosophy
Schrift, “The Effects of the Agrégation de Philosophie on Twentieth Century French Philosophy,” Journal of the History of Philosophy, 46.3

27 Bourdieu and Passeron, Prefatory Note, Chapters 1-3, and Conclusion, from The Inheritors
Feb 3  Bourdieu, Preface to the English edition, “Types of Capital and Forms of Power,” and Appendices 2.1 and 2.2, from Homo Academicus

10  Derrida, “Where a Teaching Body Begins and How it Ends” and “The Age of Hegel,” from Who’s Afraid of Philosophy? 

17  Derrida, “Vacant Chair: Censorship, Mastery, Magisteriality” and “Mochlos, or The Conflict of the Faculties,” from Eyes of the University
Kant, from “The Conflict of the Faculties” 235-262, 319-321 [7:5-7:36, 7:105-7:107] 

24  Derrida, “The Principle of Reason: The University in the Eyes of its Pupils,” from Eyes of the University
Derrida, “The University without Condition,” from Without Alibi

Mar 2  Le Dœuff, “Preface: The Shameful Face of Philosophy” and “Red Ink in the Margin,” from The Philosophical Imaginary
Descartes, from Discourse on the Method and Principles of Philosophy

9  Le Dœuff, “Long Hair, Short Ideas,” from The Philosophical Imaginary
Le Dœuff, “Ants and Women, or Philosophy without Borders,” from Griffiths (ed.), Contemporary French Philosophy

16  No class (Spring break)

23  Le Dœuff, “Third Notebook,” from Hipparchia’s Choice

30  Rancière, Chapters 1-2, from The Ignorant Schoolmaster
Ross, “Translators Introduction”, from The Ignorant Schoolmaster

Apr 6  No class (Easter)

13  Rancière, Chapters 3-4, from The Ignorant Schoolmaster

20  Rancière, Chapter 5, from The Ignorant Schoolmaster
Rancière, “On Ignorant Schoolmasters”
Rancière, “The Emancipated Spectator”

27  Kohan and Wozniak, “Philosophy as Spiritual Exercise in Adult Literacy Course”
Hadot, “Spiritual Exercises,” from Philosophy as a Way of Life

May 4  Presentations

11  Presentations