

Course Offerings for Culture Week 2024:

1. Prof. Kenneth Stickers

School of History and Philosophy/School of Africana and Multicultural Studies
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Course:

American philosophy: The American Philosophical Tradition, from Puritanism through Pragmatism

This course will identify the main sources of American philosophy and the major themes and thinkers that have shaped that tradition.

The classes at the University of Wroclaw will focus on:

1. Puritan and Enlightenment influences
2. Early American political philosophy (The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution)
3. Transcendentalism
4. Origins of African American philosophy
5. Native American philosophy, especially their gift economies

The classes at SIUC in June will focus on Classical American Philosophy: sources of American pragmatism, Charles Sanders Peirce, William James, Josiah Royce, John Dewey, and W. E. B. Du Bois.

- **Public Lecture:** "To Preserve Their Freedom, or Remembrance of Things Beautiful: The Haitian Revolution and Frederick Douglass." – **March 12, 2024, 4.30 pm; Podwale street 75.**

2. Prof. GINTAUTAS MAŽEIKIS

Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania

Lectures on the topic:

DIVERSITY OF RATIONALITIES AND SYMBOLICAL ORDERS

1. THEORY OF DIVERSITY OF RATIONALITIES AFTER A. WARBURG AND E. CASSIRER.
The history of the recognition of different forms of thinking and rationalities. The question is about the interdependence of discursive/narrative orders, rituals, and forms (rules) of thinking. Cassirer's classification of autonomous forms of thought just opens the door to the interpretation of the diversity of rationalities and different epistemologies, especially in tribalism, subcultures, gender-culture, economy-culture, art-science, and similar fields.

2. ADORNO'S THEORY OF ANTAGONISTIC MAN AND SOCIETY. The novels of T. Mann "Doctor Faustus" and H. Hesse "Steppenwolf" as the pictures of the antagonistic character of the human beings and the novel of R. Musill "The Man Without Qualities" as the reflection of contradictions in the society. Music of A. Schoenberg as a new vision of the dodecaphonic character of consciousness. Adorno insists on the irreconcilable antagonisms of contemporary society as new symbolical condition of human beings. Antinomic character of theories of society and contradictions of the society in-and-for itself. What does mean coercive/violent synthesis of society or totalitarian building of the unity?

3. S. ŽIŽEK'S LACANIAN CRITICISM OF THE REAL. The notion of the Real presents the other-than-reality and consists of symbolical orders and people 's imagination. What does develop our imagination: literature, cinema, music ... culture, machines of desire. Origin of the differences and mutations in the symbolical orders / discursive orders. Origin of different the Reals and it's ideals. The fight between the believers in different the Real and the absurdity of the battles. The need of the other approach.

4. ORIGIN OF THE EPISTEMOLOGY OF DIVERSITY OF RATIONALITIES. Becoming of monotheism, mono-epistemology and barbarisation of the aliens and savages until the XX century. Monotheistic knowledge's main parables were Plato's story of the Cave, F. Bacon critics of Idols, J. Locke' "Camera obscura". The first crisis of mono-rationalism happens regarding the concept of multiple folds in Leibniz' philosophy. Classical epistemology and metaphysics based on the principles of mathesis universalis and, later, Darwinian natural sciences experience the crisis in the beginning of XX century. Origin of the doubt of a truth as the correspondence or to the transcendental axiomatic knowledge, or to the natural picture of the world based on experiments and inductions. One dimensional diplomacy and religious wars: multiple Churches fought various monotheistic pictures. The need of diplomacy of diversity and new philosophical understanding of the mediation.

5. TOWARD TO PHILOSOPHICAL DIPLOMACY. The purposes and problems of philosophical mediation were presented in the philosophy of Hegel, T. Adorno, S. Žižek. Mediation as bilateral action: philosophy of dialogue: from M. Bakhtin to and E. Levinas. What does mean the philosophical concept of mediation? What is contemporary philosophical mediation as the mode of representation and advocacy in the cultural diplomacy? Analysis of the cases of philosophical mediation and critical theory.

Public lecture: "PHILOSOPHICAL CRITIQUE OF CULTURAL DIPLOMACY"; March 13, 2024, 4.30 pm; Podwale street 75.

Why and how does cultural diplomacy adjust international public consensus? The lecture will question of limits of social and cultural constructivism and the possibilities of

manufacturing/engineering of public consensus. Propaganda and public relations have been used to create and adjust public discourses, traditions, memories and capacities for consensus. Cultural diplomacy does this now. What is the epistemology of politics and diplomacy? Negotiations and deliberations about the limits of social and cultural, political judgements regulate the social understanding of truth. Challenges: How does diplomacy depend on realpolitik and pragmatism? Why and which philosophy did Hans Morgenthau - Henry A. Kissinger study? What does their "realist philosophy" mean and how does it differ from American pragmatism (J. Dewey, R. Rorty)? Can American pragmatism be model of philosophical diplomacy? Contemporary post-structural philosophy, diversity of rationality influences the role of cultural diplomacy. Is philosophical diplomacy possible and what can it be?

3. Assoc. Prof. Mikołaj Wiśniewski

SWPS University, Warsaw, Poland

The Israel-Palestine Conflict: History, Literature, Film

The first part of the course will be dedicated to the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict: from the mid 19th century to the 1993 Oslo Accords. Apart from works by historians specializing in the subject (e.g. James Gelvin), we will be reading from a variety of other sources, texts written by the protagonists of this tragic conflict: political essays, memoirs, interviews (by, among others, Theodore Herzl, David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin, Edward Said, Suad Amiry, Ghada Karmi). The most important goal of this part of the course is for students to acquire the knowledge of the most important facts, but also the ability to tell when a given narrative of the Israel-Palestine conflict is ideologically skewed. In the second part of the course, we will be reading novels and short stories, as well as watching films, which offer different perspectives on the conflict. The authors / movie directors whose work we will be examining are both Jewish and Palestinian: Etgar Keret, Amos Oz, Emile Habibi, Adania Shibli, Elia Suleiman, Ari Folman.

Public Lecture:

The Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Very British Problem; March 14, 2024, 4.30 pm; Podwale street 75.

The lecture will be devoted to Mandatory Palestine, i.e. the period when Britain ruled Palestine under the UN mandate, 1920-48. Its purpose is to give the public a better understanding of the way in which British colonial policies generated the Israel-Palestine conflict which is still with us today, 75 years after the British left Palestine.