

Theories of the subject and of subjectivity

Academic Year: (2022 / 2023)

Review date: 30-06-2021

Department assigned to the subject: Humanities: Philosophy, Language, Literature Theory Department

Coordinating teacher: THIEBAUT LUIS-ANDRE, CARLOS

Type: Electives ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 1 Semester : 2

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

There are no special requirements to take this course

OBJECTIVES

Access to knowledge of the problems and debates about subjectivity and identity in culture and contemporary thought.

- Critical and analytical reading of classical texts of philosophy and theory of culture relevant to the question of subjectivity.
- Ability to find a philosophical content in literary and cultural productions.
- Ability in writing and argumentation about abstract topics, relating both to contemporary culture to that thought.
- Acquaintance with the relevant literature on the subject.
- Ability to write academic texts related to the subject.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

The idea or notion of the "subject" has been central to contemporary philosophical discussions and encompass problems and areas that refer to personal and collective identity, to subjectivity or subjectivities in personal and interpersonal understandings and relational processes. It refers to the individual moment of these relational processes and to the constitution of social spaces and institutions. This course has been developing this approach in the course of the 3 last years a) by exploring a relational idea of the subject, b) underscoring its performative character (Butler), c) centering this performative relationality in specific contexts of negativity and harm and d) focusing on how these processes appear in the corporal space of the skin and touch, and e) analyzing the construction of subjectivity in negative experiences of harm, such as torture, rape and dispossession. The contents and discussions are not repeated from year to year, but follow the lines of a research program. In 2021-22, linking the developments of the last two years, we will focus on the processes of closure and resolution of harm experiences in dimensions such as justice, civic reconciliation and forgiveness. Thus, we intend to explore how contemporary philosophy (Phenomenology, Deconstruction and Critical Theory) analyses the subject's corporality or the subjectivity of/in the person's embodiment in such negative experiences in their diachronic relation of resolution, when these are possible and enacted.

Evaluation: Students are required to do an oral presentation in the discussion of texts, and a final paper, whose subject has to be discussed with the instructor by the end of april, and whose deadline is the last day of the examination period, will be the basis for evaluation.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

For each session there will be a topic and a some readings (see program), which the students should have read previously (except the first day). The texts will be presented in class, either by the teacher, or by students who volunteer to present. There follows a group discussion.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

In addition to participation in class and follow the course indicated readings, students are required to do an oral presentation in the discussion process and to write a final paper, whose contents will be discussed with the instructor

In a normal development, but also if special measures needed to be taken, this year's weight of continuous evaluation has been increased.

% end-of-term-examination:	60
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	40

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Adorno Minima Moralia, various editions.
- Bernstein, J. Torture and dignity, U Chicago Press, 2015
- Butler Bodies that matter, Routledge, 1993
- Butler, The psychic life of power, Routledge, 2000
- Elaine Scarry The body in pain , Oxford University Press.
- Krog, A. Skinned , Seven Stories (NY), 2013