

GER 382N (38550) = CL 381 (34055) = AMS 391 (30920):

20th Century Germanophone Thought and its Nexes

TTH 11:00-12:30 BUR 232

Katherine Arens

arens@austin.utexas.edu

Office: Burdine 320

Office Hours: Tues 9-10:55 and by appointment

"German" thought and intellectual history, like any other type of history, is a questionable construct. This course will introduce several critical moments in the migratory and mutable history of germanophone thought to argue it as anything but a German national project. By tracing how the theorists, their work, and their students migrated, this course aims at recovering not a causal-genetic tradition but rather a network of points of contact, where "German" thought went into exile or was brought into the US, the UK and France, there continued, but yet were publicly denied (in no small part because of how German history caused the German legacy of the West to be suppressed as a skeleton in the closet).

Investigating such points of transnational convergence will help 1) to clarify what are known as historical epistemologies -- to clarify how these texts in the diaspora need to be understood as part of more than one discourse and intellectual community, and 2) to illuminate what points of contact on such nexes can be configured, understood, and can transfer power and distinction in unforeseen ways.

The course is constructed around contact paradigms, the various patterns of transmission that affect how texts mean and how bodies of thought are understood and used. Emphasis is on reading texts (often in excerpt) against the "standard accounts" in various disciplines and national histories, and then running comparisons that will open out new accounts of what the texts mean and imply as tools for understanding and interpreting in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. In tracing these contacts, students will learn about "lost" germanophone legacies that have been rendered invisible in today's nationalist cultural histories, especially those reaching between anglophone, francophone, and germanophone regions through the long twentieth century.

Students will be able to design their individual projects: to trace the contact points and nexes of texts in which they are interested and which they need for their own projects. This course requires no background knowledge, but just a willingness to confront a diverse body of texts in philosophy/theory/thought and to consider them as cultural history affected by discursive ideologies, not just as theories. Knowledge of German is helpful, but not necessary; virtually all texts are available in English, and all will be available on the class Blackboard site, as either pdfs or as links to online documents.

Contact Sites (not in chronological order):

- Freudianisms: Mitscherlich, Horney, Fromm, Erikson
- Existenzphilosophy/Existentialism: Jaspers, Heidegger, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Chardin,

- Sociology/Frankfurt School: Ralph Mannheim, Norbert Elias, Horkheimer, Adorno, Habermas, Luhmann,
- Sociology/Anthropology/History: Gregory Bateson, Wilhelm Wundt, Kosellek,
- Philosophy of Language: Wittgenstein, Speech Act theory, Cassirer
- Philosophy of Science: Teilhard de Chardin
- Art History: Alois Riegl, Gombrich, Panofsky, Benjamin, Bourdieu (Habitus), Aby Warburg
- Political philosophy: Marcuse, Hannah Arendt, Cassirer, Karl Popper

GRADING:

Précis on texts of your choice: $2 \times 5\% = 10\%$ of grade

Abstract of final project = 15 % of grade

Bibliography of Historical and scholarly sources with brief annotations = 20% of grade

Short oral presentation (preliminary to final project) = 15 % of grade

Final paper = 40% of grade

(exact assignment descriptions forthcoming)

Week 1: Thursday, 29 August

Day 1: Intro to the course structure and logic

Goal for the semester:

- 1) recovering key thinkers from
- 2) strategies of occlusion that arise
- 3) from sets of "standard accounts" that obscure alternate disciplinary discourses employed in them

Week 2: 3, 5 September

Paradigm 1: Multiple Evolutions from One Source, in Conflict

CASE: Psychoanalysis between Germany, Austria, and the US

TUESDAY

READINGS:

Stage 1:

Freud, *Outline of Psychoanalysis* (all)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sigmund_Freud

Wilhelm Griesinger, excerpt from *Mental Therapeutics* -- Chaps. 1, 3 & 4

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Griesinger

<http://archive.org/details/mentalpathology00robegoog>

THURSDAY

William James, <http://archive.org/details/principlesofpsyc01jameuoft.pdf> -

- Chapters 1, 4, & skim up through 7 if you're interested

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_james

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/james/>

Edward B. Titchener

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_B._Titchener

Textbook of psychology

<http://archive.org/details/textbookofpsycho00edwa>

Read up through ¶ 13 (and perhaps affect)

WEEK 3: 10, 12 September

TUESDAY

READINGS:

Stage 2:

Karen Horney

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-psychanalysis/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karen_Horney

Excerpts from *Feminine Psychology* (what's in the pdf)

Erik Erikson

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erik_Erikson

Excerpts from *Identity and the Life Style* (what's on pdf)

THURSDAY

Erich Fromm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Fromm
Excerpt from *The Art of Loving* (on pdf)

Mitscherlich,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Mitscherlich_%28psychologist%29
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margarete_Mitscherlich
Excerpt from *The Inability to Mourn* (on pdf)

WEEK 4: 17, 19 September

TUESDAY: The Historiographic Problem

LECTURE: Psychology before Freud

19th century: Griesinger, Wundt, Münsterberg, James
20th century: Horney, Erikson, Fromm versus the APA
Adorno versus Mitscherlich

THURSDAY

Paradigm 2: Paradigms Displaced and Re-Nationalized

CASE: Philosophy of Language

READINGS:

Paul, *History of Language*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermann_Paul
Read Intro, chapter 1, and 23

Wundt, excerpt from *Elements of Folk Psychology*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_Wundt
-Preface and Introduction
OR *Völkerpsychologie* bits in German (on pdf)

WEEK 5: 24, 26 September

TUESDAY

Wittgenstein, excerpt from *Blue and Brown Books* (on pdf)
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wittgenstein>

Cassirer, excerpt from *Philosophy of Symbolic Forms* (forthcoming)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Cassirer

Habermas, lecture on Cassirer: "Liberating power of symbols"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCrgen_Habermas

THURSDAY

LECTURE/DISCUSSION: lost linguistic paradigm

LECTURE: Language and the Cultural Imaginary

19th century: Hermann Paul and the Neogrammarians, Wundt
20th century: Wittgenstein vs. speech act theory
Benjamin and Cassirer
Sapir and Whorf

WEEK 6: 1, 3 October

Paradigm 3: Paradigms Isolated from each other

CASE: Social sciences

TUESDAY:

READINGS:

Wundt, *Elements*, skim Chapters 3 and 4 *MORE OF THE TEXT*

Whorf, *Language, Thought, and Reality*

<http://ia600303.us.archive.org/33/items/languagethoughtr00whor/1anguagethoughtr00whor.pdf>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Lee_Whorf

Excerpts from language and mind

-"Relation of habitual thought and behavior to language. ="

-"Language, mind, and reality"

THURSDAY:

Gregory Bateson

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_bateson

<http://archive.org/details/navensurveyofpro00bate>

Read: *Naven*, Chapters 1-3

Margaret Mead

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_mead

<http://archive.org/details/comingofageinsam00mead>

Read: *Coming of Age in Samoa*, Chapters 1 & 13

WEEK 7: 8, 10 October

TUESDAY: Historical Functionalisms

Reinhart Koselleck

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinhart_Koselleck

Koselleck, "A Response"

"Begriffsgeschichte and Social History," *Futures Past*

Norbert Elias

The Court Society, Chaps. 1-2

Karl Mannheim

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sociology_of_knowledge

Ideology and Utopia, Chapters 1 & 2 (and 3 if it interests you)

Horkheimer/Adorno

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/adorno/>

Authoritarian personality =

<http://www.ajcarchives.org/main.php?GroupingId=6490>

Read intro and a chapter of choice

THURSDAY:

LECTURE: the origins of sociology and anthropology in linguistic functionalism

READING: excerpt from Bourdieu, *Language and Symbolic Power*
(essay of that name)

ABSTRACT OF FINAL PROJECT DUE

WEEK 8: 15, 17 October

Paradigm 4: Paradigms condemned to the genetic

CASE: Art History

TUESDAY:

READINGS:

Alois Riegl

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alois_Riegl

<http://dictionaryofarthistorians.org/riegla.htm>

Benjamin reviews of Riegl (German):

<http://www.textlog.de/benjamin-kritik-buecher-alois-riegl-rosenzweig-lukacs.html>

<http://www.textlog.de/benjamin-kritik-strenge-kunstwissenschaft-forschungen.html>

<http://www.textlog.de/benjamin-kritik-strenge-kunstwissenschaft.html>

Ernst Gombrich

<http://www.dictionaryofarthistorians.org/gombriche.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Gombrich

<http://gombrich.co.uk/>

Excerpt from *Art and Illusion*: Introduction

Erwin Panofsky

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erwin_Panofsky

<http://www.dictionaryofarthistorians.org/panofsky.htm>

Perspective as Symbolic Form

<http://tems.umn.edu/pdf/Erwin%20Panofsky%20-%20Perspective%20as%20Symbolic%20Form.pdf> (skim all)

THURSDAY

Aby Warburg

www.dictionaryofarthistorians.org/warburga.htm

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aby_Warburg

<http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/home/aboutthewarburginstitute/history/>

Walter Benjamin

plato.stanford.edu/entries/benjamin/

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Benjamin

Excerpts from *Illuminations: The Work of Art,*

Sacheverell Sitwell

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacheverell_Sitwell
<http://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/fasearch/findingAid.cfm?eadid=00238>
(Check out *Southern Baroque Art* -- totally on your own)

Week 9: 22, 24 October

TUESDAY:

Lecture: Misuse of genetic metaphors in intellectual history.

THURSDAY:

Paradigm 5: Falsified Paradigms

Existenzphilosophie: READINGS

Karl Jaspers

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Jaspers
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/jaspers/>
Philosophy of Existence, Part 1

Edmund Husserl

Crisis in European Philosophy - Read around in part 1
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Husserl>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/search/searcher.py?query=husserl>
<http://ia600301.us.archive.org/16/items/HusserlscrisisOfTheEuropeanSciences/HusserlCrisis2.pdf>
<http://ia700301.us.archive.org/16/items/HusserlscrisisOfTheEuropeanSciences/HusserlCrisis1.pdf>

Martin Heidegger

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heidegger>
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/heidegger/>
Letter on Humanism
<http://ia700703.us.archive.org/30/items/HeideggerLetterOnhumanism1949/Heidegger-LetterOnhumanism1949.pdf> (read all)

Week 10: 29, 31 October

TUESDAY:

Existentialism: READINGS

Jean-Paul Sartre

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/sartre/>
Being and Nothingness, part 1

Simone de Beauvoir

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/beauvoir/>
Excerpt from *Ethics of Ambiguity* (what's on pdf)

THURSDAY:

LECTURE:

Disciplinary manipulation: continental philosophy

Skim Critchley, *A Very Short Introduction to Continental Philosophy*

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FINAL PROJECT DUE

Week 11: 5, 7 November

Paradigm 6: Paradigms lost

TUESDAY:

Philosophy of Science: READINGS

Paul Feyerabend

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feyerabend/>

excerpt from *Against Method*, TOC and Introduction

Karl Popper

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/popper/>

excerpt from *Logic of Scientific Discovery*, Chapters 1 & 2

THURSDAY

Teilhard de Chardin

Excerpt from *Phenomenon of Man* -- your choice, read around in.

Week 12: 12, 14 November

TUESDAY: Cybernetics

Vladimir Vernadsky

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Vernadsky

The Biosphere, skim

Umberto Maturana and Francisco Varela

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umberto_Maturana

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Varela

Autopoiesis and Cognition, "Autopoiesis"

Niklas Luhmann

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niklas_Luhmann

Social Systems, 1-58

Bruno Latour

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actor%E2%80%93network_theory

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruno_Latour

Reassembling the Social, UT PCL online, Intro and Chap 1

THURSDAY

Lecture: Cybernetics and Marcuse's philosophy of science

Week 13: 19 November

Paradigm 7: Self-Censorship

TUESDAY: The Rise of Heidegger, the Fall of Benjamin

READINGS:

Hannah Arendt,

Men in Dark Times (essays on Jaspers and Benjamin)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hannah_Arendt

THURSDAY: Presentations

Week 14: 26, 28 November

TUESDAY: Presentations

THURSDAY: Thanksgiving.

Week 15:

TUESDAY: Activist Marxisms

Herbert Marcuse

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Marcuse

www.marcuse.org/

One-Dimensional Man, Part 1

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/marcuse/works/one-dimensional-man/one-dimensional-man.pdf>

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/marcuse/works/one-dimensional-man/index.htm>

Angela Davis

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis

Women, Race and Class (Excerpt, chapter 13)

<http://www.marxists.org/subject/women/authors/davis-angela/housework.htm>

THURSDAY

Lecture: exile self-censoring

Final paper due:

For a class on TTh 11:00–12:30 pm
Wednesday, December 11, 9:00-12:00 noon

(see <http://registrar.utexas.edu/schedules/139/finals>)

Class project: A historical epistemology
DUE DATES ON SYLLABUS.

A "historical epistemology" is a reconstruction of a different time's and space's way of thinking, often in patterns that superficially resemble our own, but which ultimately differ in fundamental ways.

Your paper/project for this class is a historical epistemology aimed at supplementing/complementing some modern tools for understanding that you want to know more about.

This project can take on several forms, from a running exposition, to a comparison, to a well-ordered annotated bibliography with introductions.

What the project must do:

- 1) take up a thinker or body of thought with European roots and results elsewhere, or a parallel contact site that suits your project. Can be a philosopher, a theorist, a literary critic, a "school" of thought -- whatever. Explain what that body of thought is.
- 2) identify the standard account in the country you are working with or in the area you are working in, and explain it, including if possible its origin -- where did it come from? The point here is to identify the spin of and lacks in the standard account -- gaps that you can fill with research, or issues that have been forgotten/highlighted that need to be re-situated.
- 3) rebuild the standard account in order to recover or rebuild a new tool, and explain what you get in that reclamation effort.

The exact shape of your project tbd in consultation with the instructor; it needs to serve you.

Deductions will be taken if bibliography and notes are not in correct form (usually MLA or Chicago style). Deductions will be taken if the research looks slack/inadequate.

You are turning it in in pieces, as indicated on the syllabus: an abstract, a preliminary bibliography that includes notes about what's missing, what's bothering you, where you're going, and then the final piece.