

PHIL*3280-01

21ST CENTURY PHILOSOPHY [0.50]

Instructor: R. Krahn

Brief Course Synopsis:

This course is an introduction to the most current philosophical texts and movements developed since the beginning of the 21st Century. Students will be taught to understand and work creatively with the most recent ideas in the discipline. Material covered will focus almost exclusively on the philosophical texts written in or after the year 2000. The topic of the readings and discussion will be structured around a central question: *After the dominance of so-called 'post-metaphysical' philosophy in the 20th century, with its emphasis on finitude and the limitations of human rationality, and its critiques of speculative philosophy, onto-theology, and all-explaining systems, are we witnessing today a return to metaphysics?* Students will read a number of essays and short books to understand the particular sense in which some of the most important contemporary philosophers like Alain Badiou, Slavoj Žižek, Catherine Malabou, and Quentin Meillassoux have revived debate on the nature of the Real, the Universal, the Truth, the Infinite, the Absolute, and even the Thing-in-itself.

Though the themes and developments of pre-21st Century thought will be revisited in lectures and classroom discussion, this course will assume some familiarity with the history of philosophy, including many of the main ideas of Kant, Hegel, and 20th Century Continental Philosophy (e.g. Heidegger, Sartre, Derrida, phenomenology, existentialism, deconstruction).

TEXTBOOK(S):

1. *After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency* - Quentin Meillassoux (Continuum)
2. *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?* - Mark Fisher (Zero)
3. *Infinite Thought: Truth and the Return to Philosophy* - Alain Badiou (Continuum)
4. *The Speculative Turn: Continental Realism and Materialism* - Levi Bryant, Nick Srnicek, Graham Harman (eds.) (Re.press)
5. *What Should We Do With Our Brain?* - Catherine Malabou (Fordham)

EVALUATION: TBA

PREREQUISITE(S): 1.50 credits in Philosophy