PHIL 463/563  
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Spring 2014  
Noon – 1:50pm, T & TH, 122 MCK

Instructor: Professor Beata Stawarska  
Office Hours: T 2-4 pm & by appointment  
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Description

This class will focus on some of the key philosophical concepts and theories developed by Julia Kristeva within her vast body of work. Kristeva is a contemporary, living, French-Bulgarian philosopher and psychoanalyst. She is an interdisciplinary scholar who draws on contributions from various traditions of inquiry and academic disciplines, including philosophy (especially phenomenology and post-structuralism), linguistics, psychoanalysis, literary theory, political theory, visual arts, and religious discourses. While our goal will be to retain this broad interdisciplinary scope of her work, we will emphasize especially the philosophical background and implications of her project. We will focus on three broad and interrelated themes: I. The importance of the speaking subject within any concrete philosophy of language, and the related distinction between the semiotic and the symbolic; II. The question of love, the feminine and the maternal as developed in psychoanalysis, religion, and the arts; and III. The call for an intimate revolt as a political strategy of resistance to normalization.

Course requirements:

ATTENDANCE: This is a small seminar style class, and you are expected to attend all the meetings and participate actively in the conversation. One unexcused absence is allowed per term.

READING. This course has a sizable reading load, and you will be required to read the assigned texts carefully, and be prepared to discuss them in class. In addition to attending the class, you will need to plan your schedule to allow sufficient time for the required reading ahead of class. Grads are expected to read most if not all of the recommended readings. They are optional for Undergrads, but UGs are encouraged to read them as well.

WRITING. Undergrads: Each Thursday (excluding week 1 and 10) you will submit a one to two pages typed up response to the readings assigned for the week. The response is not expected to be a polished piece of writing (but needs to be readable and free from spelling/grammatical errors); it provides an opportunity for you to actively engage the material, and offer your own perspective on the readings. There will be one midterm and one term paper. The midterm is 5-7 pages long. The term paper is 8-12 pages long. Topics and guidelines for both papers will be provided in advance; in some cases, the students may write the final on a topic of their own choice (approved in advance by the instructor).
Grads: students select their own topic for the final, and submit a 1-2 pages long prospectus with a topic outline and literature review for approval and comments. The prospectus is due in week 9. You are advised to meet with me at least once before submitting the prospectus.

All written assignments should be typewritten, double-spaced, font size no smaller than 11. They need to include the class title, your name - and my name for the midterm and final papers.

PRESENTATIONS. Grads will offer a 30-40 min. in-class presentation dealing with one of the required readings covered in weeks 7-10; Grads will also give a brief 5-10 min. presentation of their final essay project on the last day of class.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to identify and discuss main debates, terms, and methods deployed by Julia Kristeva, one of the key authors in contemporary Continental and Feminist Philosophy.

Grade components (undergrads):
Participation: 10%
Weekly response to the reading: 10%
Midterm paper: 30%
Final paper: 50%
Total: 100%

Grade components (grads):
Participation, including one in-class presentation (week 7-10): 20%
Prospectus, and final paper presentation (week 10): 20%
Final paper: 60%
Total: 100%

Grading
What kind of paper deserves an "A," "B," etc.? The following rubric reflects the general standards of the Philosophy Department at the University of Oregon.

A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

Please note: what counts as “excellent” or “OK,” for example, depends in part upon the nature and level of the class in question.

Late paper policy: the overall grade for the paper will be reduced by 0.3 grade if no extension has been granted by the instructor before the paper is due.
**Plagiarism:** A failure to cite your sources and give credit to others for their work is a violation of academic honesty, and can result in an F grade for the class.

**Final Paper due at noon on Thursday in the Finals Week, SC 211.**

**Required Texts:**
Available at Black Sun Bookstore, 2467 Hilyard (next to Allan Bros Café):
*Intimate Revolt* (Columbia UP, 2002) – a few copies available only; IF UNAVAILABLE, PLEASE LOCATE YOUR OWN COPY ONLINE OR AT ANOTHER BOOKSTORE AND LET ME KNOW IF THAT’S AN ISSUE.

All other readings are available on Blackboard (Bb).

**Class Schedule:**

**WEEK 1 (3/31-4/6)**
1. *Intro session: Kristeva in her own words.*
   ‘My Memory’s Hyperbole’ (*The Portable Kristeva/PK*, K. Oliver); Introduction (*The Kristeva Reader*, T. Moi) – Bb.
   In class viewing of *Julia Kristeva: étrange étrangère = a strange foreigner* (DVD).

**I. The Speaking Subject; the Semiotic and the Symbolic.**
   2. The Speaking Subject (in *Structuralism*, J. Culler); the System and the Speaking Subject (in *The Kristeva Reader*, T. Moi) – Bb.
   Recommended: Benveniste, Subjectivity in Language.

**WEEK 2 (4/7-13)**
   Recommended: Transgression in Theory, by Suzanne Guerlac (in Oliver, *Ethics, Politics, Difference*).
   Stacy Keltner ch. 1, *Kristeva*, contnd.
   4. RPL, 13-30 (continued); 31-45. 15pp.
   Recommended: ‘The Lost Territory’ by Miglena Nikolchina (in *The Kristeva Critical Reader*).

**WEEK 3 (4/14-20)**
5. RPL, I, 3; 5, 6; (46 - 71). 25pp.
6. RPL, I, 8, 9, 10, 12 (62- 71 (contd); 86- 105. 20pp.

**WEEK 4 (4/21-27)**

**WEEK 5 (4/28-5/4)**
WEEK 6 (5/5-11)
11. From one Identity to another (Desire in Language).
   Recommended: Tina Chanter: ‘Kristeva’s Politics of Change’ (Ethics, Politics, and Difference, 179-195).

WEEK 7 (5/12-18)
II. Love, the Feminine, the Maternal.
13. Freud and Love: Treatment and Its Discontents (Tales of Love).
   Recommended: In Praise of Love (Tales of Love), 1-17.
   Ch. 3. Love and Death by Any Other Name? In Lechte & Margaroni, Julia Kristeva: Live Theory, 63-85.
   Julia Kristeva in Conversation Rosalind Coward (The Portable Kristeva, 333-350).
14. Stabat Mater (Tales of Love).
   Recommended: Marily Edelstein, Toward a Feminist Postmodern Polethique: Kristeva on Ethics and Politics (In Oliver, Ethics, Politics, and Difference, ch. 12, 196-214).

WEEK 8 (5/19-25)
15. Women’s Time (New Maladies of the Soul)
   Interview with Elaine Hoffman Baruch on Feminism in the US and France (The Portable Kristeva, 371-382).

III. Intimate Revolt, Psychoanalysis.
   Recommended: Interviews from Revolt, She Said: What’s Left of 1968?; Politics and Psychoanalysis.
   ‘What Revolt Today?’ (Sense and Non-Sense of Revolt, ch. 1, 1-17)
   Keltner, ch. 3. The Public Stakes of Intimacy, in Kristeva.

WEEK 9 (5/26-6/1)
17. Ch. 3 ‘The Scandal of the Timeless’, Intimate Revolt, 25-42.
   Recommended: Keltner, ch. 4. Intimate Revolt, Temporality....., in Kristeva.
18. Ch. 4. ‘The Intimate: From Sense to the Sensible’ Intimate Revolt (43-62).
   Final paper prospectus due in class (Grads).

WEEK 10 (6/2-8)
   Recommended: ch. 15 ‘Europhilia-Europhobia’ (Intimate Revolt).
20. Final paper presentations (Grads) and workshop (Grads & Undergrads).

I reserve the right to change the reading schedule throughout the term.