PHILOSOPHY 463/563: DEWEY

Fall 2013—Course Syllabus

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and by appt.

Course Description
We will undertake a close reading of Dewey’s *Experience and Nature*, which is generally considered to be his seminal work on the nature of experience, mind, thought, language, knowledge, and philosophy. We will focus on roughly one chapter per week, with some use of supplementary reading of other short articles by Dewey or from articles or book chapters by commentators on Dewey’s philosophical project.

Schedule of Readings
The key text is John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, vol. 1 of *The Later Works, 1925-1953*, edited by Jo Ann Boydston (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1981). This is available in paperback at the UO Bookstore. There will also be a small packet of additional readings available at the Copy Shop (539 E. 13th Ave.). The schedule of reading assignments below is tentative and may need to be adjusted as we assess our progress.

Week 1
Sept. 30 Introduction: Dewey’s Reconstruction of Philosophy
   “From Absolutism to Experimentalism” (readings packet)
Oct. 2 “Experience and Philosophic Method” (*EN*, Ch. 1)

Week 2
Oct. 7 “Experience and Philosophic Method” (*EN*, Ch. 1)
   “The Postulate of Immediate Empiricism” (packet)
   “Pure Experience and Reality: A Disclaimer” (packet)
Oct. 9 “Existence as Precarious and as Stable” (*EN*, Ch. 2)

Week 3
Oct. 14 “Qualitative Thought” (packet)
Oct. 16 Rorty, “Dewey’s Metaphysics” (packet)

Week 4
Oct. 21 “Nature, Ends and Histories” (*EN*, Ch. 3)
   [First short essay due]
Oct. 23 “Nature, Means and Knowledge” (*EN*, Ch. 4)
**Week 5**
Oct. 28 “Nature, Communication and Meaning” *(EN, Ch. 5)*
Oct. 30 Pratt, “A Sailor in a Storm” (Packet)
   Johnson, “The Meaning of the Body” (packet)

**Week 6**
Nov. 4 No class (Johnson out of town)
Nov. 6 “Nature, Mind and the Subject” *(EN, Ch. 6)*

**Week 7**
Nov. 11 “Nature, Life, and Body-Mind” *(EN, Ch. 7)*
Nov. 13 “Nature, Life and Body-Mind” *(EN, Ch. 7)*

**Week 8**
Nov. 18 Damasio, “Building a Conscious Mind” (packet)
Nov. 20 “Existence, Ideas and Communication” *(EN, Ch. 8)*
   [Second Short Essay Due]

**Week 9**
Nov. 25 “Experience, Nature and Art” *(EN, Ch. 9)*
Nov. 27 Johnson, “Dewey’s Big Idea for Aesthetics” (packet)

**Week 10**
Dec. 2 “Existence, Value and Criticism” *(EN, Ch. 10)*
Dec. 4

**Week 11**
Dec. 9-13 Final exam week
   [Term paper due Tues., Dec. 10 by 5:00 p.m.]

**Assignments/Grading**
Students are required to write three philosophical essays, two short essays and one term paper. The first two (short) essays, on a topic assigned by the instructor, should be 4-5 double-spaced typewritten pages. The term paper (8-10 pages for undergraduates and 12-15 pages for graduate students) is on a topic of your choice, but approved by the instructor. Each short essays counts as 25% of your grade, and the term paper is 50%.