

Instructor: Dr. Daniela Vallega-Neu

Class meets MW 2:00-3:50 in 373 MCK

Office hours: TH 1:30 – 3:30 in SCH 245 and by appointment

Email: dneu@uoregon.edu

## TOPIC: BERGSON

### Texts:

#### Required:

- Henri Bergson: *Time and Free Will: An Essay on the Immediate Data of Consciousness*. Trans. F. L. Pogson. New York: Dover Publications, 2001.
- Henri Bergson: *Matter and Memory*. Trans. N. M. Paul and W. S. Palmer. New York: Zone Books, 1991.

#### Recommended:

- Henri Bergson: *Key Writings*. Edited by K. A. Pearson and J. O. Maoilearca. London, New Delhi, New York, Sydney: Bloomsbury, 2014. [See the “Guide to Further Reading” at the end of this volume for further secondary sources. I uploaded it onto Canvas.]
- Gilles Deleuze: *Bergsonism*. Trans. Hugh Tomlinson and Barbara Habberjam. New York: Zone Books, 1991.
- Leonard Lawlor: *The Challenge of Bergsonism*. London, New York: Continuum, 2003.
- The new Bergson. Edited by John Mullarkey. Manchester University Press, 2006.

### Course Description:

Through a close reading of two of Henri Bergson’s major texts, *Time and Free Will* and *Matter and Memory*, this class will explore especially Bergson’s thinking of time as duration in connection with his accounts of the mind, memory, and the body. We will see how in contrast to an abstract scientific approach to time, Bergson argues for an intuitive approach to time, taking time as it is felt in consciousness.

### Requirements Phil:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Mid-term comprehensive paper (5 pages)               | 30% of the final grade |
| 2. Final term paper (9-12 pages)                        | 50% of the final grade |
| 3. Attendance, participation, short writing assignments | 20% of final grade     |

#### Regarding 1:

You will be given a number of comprehensive guiding questions to which you will answer in the form of a paper.

#### Regarding 2:

The final paper (9-12 pages) should address mainly the texts we read in class. You need to demonstrate the capacity of close reading and text analysis as well as an independent reflexive, inquisitive, and critical approach to the text. Furthermore you need to integrate at least two secondary sources into your essay.

A final paper proposal is due by email at least two weeks before the end of the term. It should contain a narrative introducing what you intend to write about, an outline that conveys a sense of

the order in which you intend to address certain issues, as well as a list of chapters and text passages that you will primarily focus on. You will be required to present your final paper proposal to the class the last day of class.

Regarding 3:

You will receive participation points for attendance, valuable contributions to class discussion, and short writing assignments. Participation points will be converted into grades at the end of the term.

### Course Policies

- 1. Handing in an assignment late** will lower your grade. Homework that is more than a week late will not be accepted, unless this was for demonstrable (documented) reasons beyond your control.
- 2.** In order to **avoid disruptions** in class you are asked to avoid exiting and entering the classroom while lectures and discussions are going on.
- 3. If you miss a class** it is your responsibility to keep up with the course material.
- 4. The uses of electronic devices like** laptops, cell phones, iPods, iPads, Blackberries, etc. during class is **not allowed** unless you need a specific device because of a disability. If the latter is the case, please let me know.
- 5.** You are expected to follow the **rules of academic honesty**. Failure to do so will result in course failure (“F”).

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else’s product, words, ideas, or data as one’s own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. By placing one’s name on work submitted for credit, one certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. Verbatim statements by others must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from the regular text as indented extracts.

Students will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is acknowledgement of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever: 1) one quotes another person’s actual words or replicates all or part of another’s product; 2) one uses another person’s ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one’s own words; 3) one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material—unless the information is common knowledge.

Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). In addition, it is plagiarism to submit as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another person, even if that person is acting as a tutor or editor (and ends up substantially producing part of the work).

**Fabrication:** Fabrication is the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive.

Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) citing information not taken from the source indicated; 2) listing sources in a reference not used in the academic exercise; 3) inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercises.

**Cheating:** Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise.

Examples include but are not limited to: 1) copying from another student's work; 2) collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one's work in a test situation; 3) using the course textbook or other material not authorized for use during a test; 4) using unauthorized material during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5) resubmitting substantially the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6) taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

**Discrimination and Sexual Harassment:** The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu).

### **Grade Rubric:**

**A** = Excellent. No mistakes, clearly written, well organized, and distinctive in some way or other.

**B** = Good. No significant mistakes but some inaccuracies or omissions in explanations, fairly well written and organized, but not distinctive in any way.

**C** = OK. Some errors, weaknesses in writing and ordering the thoughts in the paper, 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week One

March 28: Introduction to the course.

March 30: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 1.

Week Two

April 4: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 1 continued.

April 6: Continuation of last class.

Week Three

April 11: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 2.

April 13: Continuation of last class.

Week Four

April 18: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 2 continued and Ch. 3.

April 20: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 3.

Week Five

April 25: *Time and Free Will*, Ch. 3 continued. [Comprehensive mid-term paper assignment.]

April 27: Continuation of last class and Conclusion to *Time and Free Will*.

Week Six

May 2: *Matter and Memory*, Ch. 1

May 4: Continuation of last class. [Mid-term paper due.]

Week Seven

May 9: *Matter and Memory*, Ch. 2.

May 11: Continuation of last class.

Week Eight

May 16: *Matter and Memory*, Ch. 3.

May 18: Continuation of last class.

Week Nine

May 23: *Matter and Memory*, Ch. 4

May 25: Continuation of last class and summary and conclusion of *Matter and Memory*.

Week Ten

May 30: MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY! No class.

June 4: Final discussion and final paper proposal presentations.

**Final take-home exam due latest Thursday, June 9th at 3pm.** Add a cover page with course information and a bibliography. Please leave papers in the appropriate box straight ahead when you enter the Philosophy Department in 211 Susan Campbell Hall.

**Please note that the Philosophy Department is closed 12:00-1:00pm and after 5pm.**