

<b>DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 2029 PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE</b>	
<b>UK LEVEL 4</b> <b>UK CREDITS: 15</b> <b>US CREDITS: 3/0/3</b>	
<b>(Fall 2022)</b>	
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	None
<b>CATALOG DESCRIPTION:</b>	Examination of the conceptual framework wherein various accounts of “human nature”. Philosophical figures to be discussed include: Plato, Thucydides, Aristotle, Augustine, Rousseau, Hobbes, Spinoza, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Gehlen, Plessner, Lukacs, Landmann, Radin, C.L. Strauss, Heller, Scheler, Sartre, Schmitt, Foucault, Koselleck, Kondylis.
<b>RATIONALE:</b>	The course raises the problem of human nature to demonstrate how vital problems and dilemmas of social philosophy are grounded upon fundamental anthropological, social-ontological, and sociological-historical premises. This course will give students the opportunity to understand how philosophical discourse is inextricably tied to the development of social sciences and how modernity’s “historicization of science” concerns mainly the socially-historically constituted subject. It should appeal to students of philosophy, sociology, anthropology, history, and political science.
<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES:</b>	As a result of attending this course and assimilating the cognitive material, the student is expected to be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate understanding of some of the most indicative -ancient and modern- accounts of “human nature” developed in intellectual history.</li> <li>2. Analyze key ideas and interpretive takes of secondary literature on the main accounts discussed.</li> <li>3. Compare the different conceptions of “human nature”.</li> <li>4. Demonstrate an awareness of the impact the examined theories on human nature have had in social and intellectual history.</li> </ol>
<b>METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:</b>	In congruence with the teaching strategy and learning policies of the College, the following educational tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seminar-type (i.e. small group) class consisting of lectures and interactive learning (class discussions of primary and secondary philosophical texts, contemporary readings and recent interpretive takes).</li> <li>- Research papers requiring selection of topic and in-depth exploration of arguments.</li> <li>- Office hours: students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their instructor, where they can address questions, discuss their research papers or go over lecture material.</li> <li>- Use of a blackboard site, where the instructor systematically posts lecture notes, home assignments, bibliographical updates and instructions on the mechanics of the course.</li> <li>- Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use</li> </ul>

	<p>of library facilities for assignments, their research paper and further reading of recommended texts.</p>								
<p><b>ASSESSMENT:</b></p>	<p><b>Summative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>First assessment: Research paper (1,800-2,000 words) Analysis/Discussion/Evaluation</td> <td>– 40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final assessment: Final Examination Essay type-questions</td> <td>– 60%</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Formative:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Class oral presentation (individual or group) &amp; home assignments</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative assignments aim to cultivate the students' interest for research while preparing them for their mid-term exam and final research paper.  The first assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3.  The final assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 4.</p> <p>The final grade for this module will not be determined through grade averaging. Students are required to resit any failed assessments.</p>	First assessment: Research paper (1,800-2,000 words) Analysis/Discussion/Evaluation	– 40%	Final assessment: Final Examination Essay type-questions	– 60%	Class oral presentation (individual or group) & home assignments	0%		
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Final assessment: Final Examination Essay type-questions	– 60%								
Class oral presentation (individual or group) & home assignments	0%								
<p><b>INDICATIVE READING:</b></p>	<p><b>REQUIRED READINGS:</b></p> <p>Gehlen, Arnold <i>Man. His Nature and Place in the World</i>, Columbia University Press, New York, 1988.  Scheler, Max <i>The Human Place in the Cosmos</i>, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, Illinois, 2009.  Plessner, Helmuth, <i>Political Anthropology</i>, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, Illinois, 2018.  Plessner, Helmuth, <i>Levels of Organic Life and the Human</i>, Fordham University Press, New York, 2019.  Plessner, Helmuth, <i>Laughing and Crying</i>, Northwestern University Press, Evanston, 1970.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READINGS:</b></p> <p>Roughley, Neil (ed.) <i>Being Humans. Anthropological Universality and Particularity in Transdisciplinary Perspectives</i>, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin New York, 2000.  Scruton, Roger <i>On Human Nature</i>, Princeton University Press, Princeton and Oxford, 2017.  Naddaf, Gerard, <i>The Greek Concept of Nature</i>, State University of New York Press, 2005.  Hume David, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i>, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2000  Hobbes, Thomas <i>Leviathan</i>, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2003.  Hobbes Thomas <i>On the Citizen</i>, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2003.  Machiavelli Niccolo, <i>The Chief Works and Others</i> Vol. I, Duke University Press, Durham and London 1989.  Rousseau J.J., <i>The Discourses and other Early Political Writings</i>,</p>								

	<p>Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2019.  Shaftesbury <i>Characteristicks of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times</i>, Vol. I &amp; II, Oxford University Press, Oxford 1999.  Kant Immanuel, <i>On History</i>, Macmillan Press, 1963.  Kant Immanuel, <i>Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View</i>, Carbondale &amp; Edwardsville, Southern Illinois University Press 1996.  Hegel, G.W.F. <i>The Phenomenology of Spirit</i>, transl. by A.V. Miller, Oxford University Press (1977) 2004.  Nietzsche Fr. "On the Genealogy of Morals" in: <i>Basic Writings of Nietzsche</i>, ed. &amp; transl. by W. Kaufmann, The Modern Library, New York 1992.  Marx K., <i>Early Writings</i>, transl. by R. Livingstone &amp; Gr. Benton, Penguin, 1992.  Kondylis P., <i>Macht und Entscheidung</i>, Klett-Cotta, 1984.  Kondylis P. <i>Das Politische und der Mensch</i>, Akademie Verlag GmbH, Berlin 1999.  Durkheim Emile, <i>The Elementary Forms of Religious Life</i>, The Free Press, New York 1995.  Ricoeur Paul, <i>Philosophical Anthropology</i>, Polity Press, Cambridge and Malden MA, 2016.  Schoeck Helmut, <i>Envy. A Theory of Social Behaviour</i>, Liberty Fund, Indianapolis, (1966) 1987.  Paul Radin, <i>Primitive Man as Philosopher</i>, Dover Publications inc, New York 1957.  Strauss C.L., <i>The Savage Mind</i>, Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd, 1966.  Winch P., "Understanding a Primitive Society" in: B. Wilson (ed.) <i>Rationality</i>, Oxford, Basil Blackwell, 1970, pp. 78-111.  Darwin Ch., <i>On the Origin of Species</i>, Oxford University Press, 2008.  Darwin Ch., <i>The Descent of Man</i>, Princeton University press, New Jersey, 1981  <b>FURTHER READING</b> (ancient sources):  Thucydides <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i>, transl. by Rex Warner, Penguin 1972.  Plato, "Protagoras" in: <i>Plato: The Collected Dialogues</i>, transl. by W.K.C. Guthrie, Bollingen Series LXXI, Princeton University Press 2002.  Plato, "Gorgias" in: <i>Plato: The Collected Dialogues</i>, transl. by W.D. Woodhead, Bollingen Series LXXI, Princeton University Press 2002.  Aristotle, "Politics" in: <i>The Basic Works of Aristotle</i>, transl. by Benjamin Jowett (ed. R. McKeon), The Modern Library 2001.  Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics" in: <i>The Basic Works of Aristotle</i>, transl. by W.D. Ross (ed. R. McKeon), The Modern Library 2001.  Augustine, <i>City of God</i>, Penguin Classics, 1984.</p>
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Research paper submitted in Microsoft Word. Oral and writing skills using academic English.
<b>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</b>	Internet access, Microsoft Word.

<p><b>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction: a) The significance and stakes of the question of human nature b) Preliminary qualifications: Reasons for embracing sufficient conditions for the term's use and for adopting substantial claims made by philosophical and scientific figures within the outlined conceptual framework.</li> <li>2. The Greek Concept of Nature.</li> <li>3. Greek and Other Ancient Myths Concerning Human Nature. Interpretive keys: Durkheim's hypothesis; the myth – reason controversy via an examination of the Radin &amp; C.L. Strauss vs Levy Bruhl &amp; Cassirer debate.</li> <li>4. The Nature vs Convention Debate and its crucial implications (Callicles, Antiphon, Aristippus); allusion to Chinese and Indian accounts.</li> <li>5. Main Anthropological Premises Debate: Rousseau &amp; Shaftesbury vs Hobbes &amp; Machiavelli. Hobbes's "state of nature" work hypothesis and objections.</li> <li>6. Hume's, Kant's &amp; Hegel's anthropological premises.</li> <li>7. Nietzsche's Man as "the animal with the right to make promises".</li> <li>8. Marx: Human nature as shaped by Social-Economic Conditions.</li> <li>9. Allusion to Darwin's theory of Evolution - Freud's narcissistic wounds.</li> <li>10. Scheler's philosophical anthropology: man as "world-open" animal seeking "relief".</li> <li>11. Gehlen's "elementary anthropology": the human being as the "not yet determined animal". The Plasticity of human nature. Unearthing the implications of Gehlen's &amp; Merleau-Ponty's account of man's "physical defectiveness".</li> <li>12. Plessner's project: Why are humans "naturally artificial beings"? The laws of natural artificiality, mediated immediacy and utopian standpoint; laughing and crying as signs of unnaturalness "revealing the construction of a cultural world as a humanly made natural world".</li> <li>13. Ricoeur's philosophical anthropology</li> <li>14. Kondylis' social-ontological perspective:       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What is distinctively human (compared to other animals)?</li> <li>b) How is "human nature" related to "the" Political: J. Freund, C. Schmitt, H. Morgenthau et al? Have there been pre-political/a-political societies or communities?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>