

COURSE DETAIL

TRAGEDY AND NEW BEGINNINGS. 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY GERMAN PHILOSOPHY AND ITS LEGACIES

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

European Studies

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

102

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

TRAGEDY AND NEW BEGINNINGS. 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY GERMAN
PHILOSOPHY AND ITS LEGACIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

GERMAN PHILOSOPHY

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course discusses the development of German philosophy in the 19th century and its historical tragedy in the 20th century. This includes a discussion of the links between Marx and Marxism, between Nietzsche and the German political/ideological right-wing, between the Vienna Circle and the scientific revolution of the early twentieth century, as well as between German academic philosophy and Nazism. The course has a tripartite structure, which is loosely modeled on Heribert Boeder's account in his *DAS VERNUNFTGEFÜGE DER MODERNE* (Freiburg 1988). The course begins by acknowledging that, after Hegel, philosophy has no longer been pursued as a unified whole but as a reflection on specific strands of thinking. A first strand of reflecting the "essence" of human being runs from Karl Marx (*The Work of Human Being*) over Friedrich Nietzsche (*The Values of Human Being*) to Martin Heidegger (*The World of Human Being*), a second strand of reflecting the sciences starts with Gottlob Frege (*The Language of the Sciences*), goes on to Moritz Schlick (*The World of the Sciences*) and ends with Michael Polanyi (*The History of the Sciences*). The third strand reflects the interpreted life, starting with Wilhelm Dilthey (*The History of Interpreted Life*), continuing with Edmund Husserl (*The World of Interpreted Life*) and concluding with Ludwig Wittgenstein (*The Language of Interpreted Life*). These three strands with their interconnections reveal a unity of philosophy that differs from the common but unhelpful distinction between continental and analytic approaches. Thinkers of all three strands proclaimed to end philosophy. However, like all arts and sciences in Germany, philosophy took part in paving the way for totalitarian ideologies and thus has to consider its role in the 'immoral end' of the 20th century. The course concludes with a more confident outlook. Like a phoenix from the ashes, philosophy has risen again in an unexpected form. The course ends with Jürgen Habermas and Joseph Ratzinger, who in their late dialogue nearly come to an agreement.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

FU-BEST 9

Host Institution Course Title

TRAGEDY AND NEW BEGINNINGS. 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY GERMAN
PHILOSOPHY AND ITS LEGACIES

Host Institution Campus

Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty**Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

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