

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

THE SERPENT OR THE BIRD? KANT IN RUSSIAN PHILOS - 26341

Last update 29-12-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department:

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages:

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator:

Coordinator Email:

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Tatiana Karachentseva

Course/Module description:

The Russian culture can be compared with the Western one in a variety of ways. The reception of Kant's philosophy may significantly serve this purpose as well. In order to grasp the difference in the meaning of Kant's philosophy in these two cultures, we will use two symbols the serpent and the bird.

The Serpent symbolizes the earth, deceit, enslavement. It is considered to be an attribute of the Devil himself. The bird is a symbol of the sky, truth, spiritual freedom and human autonomy. Kant's reception in the Western philosophical and literary tradition was carried out mainly in positive terms of truth and freedom. The opposite case is seen in Russian philosophical and literature tradition. There, the image of Kant acquires diabolical features, and his philosophy is interpreted as false and slavish.

During this course we will try to understand: Why? What causes this change in reception? We will rely on analysis of philosophical texts (V.Soloviev, P.Florensky, S.Bulgakov, A.Losev, N.Berdyaev, L.Shestov, and M.Bakhtin), as well as literary ones (F. Dostoevsky, A. Bely, K.Vaginov, and M. Bulgakov).

Course/Module aims:

The purpose of the course - to clarify the causes and conditions underlying the fundamental differences in the reception of Kant's philosophy in Western culture on the one hand and Russian culture on the other. The course also aims to provide the conceptual tools for the analysis and comparison of these two cultures.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Distinguish the basic concepts that Russian philosophy and literature developed in their struggle with Kant (such as Sofia, Catholicity, and the Ethics of the Heart).
- Show their similarities to and differences from the concepts that the Western romantic tradition developed.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: There will be a weekly lecture for

which students will read key texts and prepare answers to questions set by the teacher.

Course/Module Content:

Introduction: "Russian" Kant.
Kant at breakfast with Woland: The seventh Proof of the God's Existence versus the sixth one.
Intellectual Intuition versus Transcendental Logic : the Case of V. Solovyev.
Antinomies of Reason versus Antinomism of The Truth: the Case of P.Florensky
Sophia versus Philo-sophia: the Case of S.Bulgakov.
Religious Materialism versus Transcendental Idealism: the Case of A.Losev.
Heart versus Reason: the Case of F.Dostoevsky.
Freedom versus Ought: N.Berdyayev's Concept of Man and its Opponents.
Responsibility versus Ought: the Case of M.Bakhtin.

Required Reading:

Mikhaíl Bulgakov *The Master and Margarita*.
Lev Shestov *In Job's Balances* (Foreword: Science and Free Inquiry).
Politics, Law, and Morality: essays / by V.S. Soloviev.
Vladimir Solovyev's *Lectures on Godmanhood*.
Pavel Florensky *Reverse Perspective*.
Pavel Florensky *The pillar and Ground of the Truth*.
Sergei Bulgakov *Sophia, the Wisdom of God: an Outline of Sophiology*.
Sergei Bulgakov *The bride of the Lamb*.
Sergei Bulgakov *The Corpse of Beauty*.
Alekssei Losev *The Dialectics of Myth*.
Fyodor Dostoyevsky *The Brothers Karamazov*.
Sergei Bulgakov *Ivan Karamazov as a Philosophical Type*.
Fyodor Dostoyevsky *Notes from the Underground*.
Lev Shestov *In Job's Balances* (Part I: Revelation of Death. Chapter I: The Conquest of the Self-evident – Dostoevsky's Philosophy).
Nicolas Berdyayev *The Beginning and the End*.
Nicolas Berdyayev *The Destiny of Man*.
Andrei Bely *Petersburg: A Novel in Eight Chapters with a Prologue and an Epilogue*.
Konstantin Vaginov *Gout Song (Satyr Chorus)*.
Mikhail Bakhtin *Toward a Philosophy of the Act*.
Mikhail Bakhtin *Author and Hero in Aesthetic Activity*.

Additional Reading Material:

Edward E. Ericson *The Satanic Incarnation: Parody in Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita*.

Marc Neining *The Gnostic Devil in Bulgakov's "Master and Margerita"*.
Lev Shestov *Speculation and Apocalypse: the Religious Philosophy of Vladimir Solovyev*.
Luis J. Shein *V.S.Solovyev's philosophical Principle of integral Knowledge*.
Pamela Davidson *Vladimir Solovyev and the Ideal of Prophecy*.
Aaron Tugendhaft *Paradise in Perspective: Thoughts from Pavel Florensky*.
Alexander v. Kozin *Iconic Wonder: Pavel Florensky's Phenomenology of the Face*.
Robert Slesinski *Bulgakov's Sophiological Conception of Creation*.
Antoine Arjakovsky *The Sophiology of Father Sergius Bulgakov and Contemporary Western Theology*.
Lev Shestov *Gnosis and Existential Philosophy: Nikolai Berdyaev*.
Anton Luis Sevilla *Nicolai Berdyaev's Creative Ethics of Personality and Christian Worldview*.
Nikolai Berdyaev *An Astral Novel (Reflections regarding A. Bely's Novel "Peterburg")*.
Nathan Klausner *The Null Chronotope and Cerebral Play in Bely's Petersburg*.
James P. Scanlan *A.F. Losev and Mysticism in Russian Philosophy*.
R. Maurice Barineau *The Triumph of Ethics over Doubt: Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov*.
Gorman Beauchamp *"The Legend of the Grand Inquisitor": The Utopian as Sadist*.
Evgenia V. Cherkasova *Kant On Free Will And Arbitrariness: A View From Dostoevsky's Underground*.
Wlad Godzich *Correcting Kant: Bakhtin and Intercultural Interactions*.
Bernhard F Scholz *Bakhtin's Concept of 'Chronotope': The Kantian Connection*. // *Mikhail Bakhtin: Four-Volume Set, V.II, pp.145-172*.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 40 %
Presentation 30 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

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