

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Minimum moralia. 120th birthday of Theodor W. Adorno Reflections from the damaged life - 32896

Last update 11-09-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: German Language & Literature

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Michael Fisch

Coordinator Email: michaelfisch@ymail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday 14.30-16.00

Teaching Staff:

Prof MICHAEL FISCH

Course/Module description:

The book »Minima Moralia« with the subtitle »Reflections from the Damaged Life« is a philosophical work by Theodor Wiesengrund Adorno (1903-1969) written in American exile. The text contains one hundred and fifty-three aphorisms and short essays on the conditions of human existence (»conditio humana«) under both capitalist and fascist conditions. The entire text is based on notes that the author wrote down during the years of his exile in England since 1934 and in the USA since 1938. Most of the pieces were written between 1944 and 1947 in exile in California, after completing their work with Max Horkheimer on the »Dialectic of Enlightenment«.

In addition to the »Dialectic of the Enlightenment« (1944) and the »Negative Dialectic« (1966), the »Minima Moralia« (1951) is one of Adorno's main philosophical works. In his overall works, the book occupies a special position, since the short, numbered texts show no discernible theoretical connection with one another. Seventy years after its publication, this collection has been referred to as the last German »Volksbuch der Philosophie« and »Hausbuch der kritischen Intelligenz« in view of its popularity and its surprisingly great success from the start with a total of over one hundred thousand copies sold. This course commemorates both his 120th birthday and the first publication of the »Minima Moralia« in seven decades.

Course/Module aims:

Introduction to the thinking of Theodor W. Adorno and his book "Minima Moralia".

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

Understanding theoretical texts and check theory in practice, discuss and interpret texts.

Attendance requirements(%):

Open to all students (Language skills in German desired).

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: communicative method, discussion of topics and texts, application of theory to practice

Course/Module Content:

This seminar aims to improve knowledge in language and literature with the help of accurate text reading.

Required Reading:

The texts are posted on the Moodle platform. Each week, extensive academic texts (in German) have to be read and understood.

Additional Reading Material:

*Theodor W. Adorno: Minima Moralia. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 1969
(Bibliothek Suhrkamp).*

Theodor W. Adorno. »Minima Moralia« neu gelesen. Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp 2003.

(Edition Suhrkamp)

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 100 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

The lecture is especially aimed at students in the German M.A.-Program of the HUJI (Faculty of Humanities).