

SYLLABUS
PHIL 3260.001 Philosophy of Social and Behavioral Science
5260.001 Seminar in Philosophy of Social Science

Professor: J.E. Barnhart, Ph.D.
EESAT Bldg. 310P
940-565-2266 (Office)
940-387-3290 (Home)

Office Hours: Tues. & Thrs. 5:00 p.m.–6:00 pm and 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Purpose:

3260.001 - Methodologies and criteria of verification and falsification appropriate to fields of inquiry; philosophical presuppositions of various schools of behavioral science; science versus ideology and magic; types of determinism and indeterminism; how models function within a paradigm. Prerequisite(s): upper-division standing or consent of department.

5260.001 – Seminar in Philosophy of Social Science. Questions on explanations, observable human purposes and science of valuation. Contrasting science, ideology and occultism. Darwinism as conceptual scheme. The causal status of symbols and verbal behavior. Debates about objectivity, Verstehen, phenomenology and behaviorism, referring to K. Popper, L.A. White, B.F. Skinner, C. Geertz, T. Kuhn, L. Tolstoy, P. Winch and M. Weber. See also 3260

Texts:

L. Tolstoy, War and Peace (W) [In some years, I use an alternate (e.g., the anthology of anthropology called *Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion*: Eds A. C. Lehmann and James E. Myers. Mayfield Press. Or *Philosophy of the Social Sciences: A Reader*. Ed. Maurice Natanson. Random House).]

The Barnharts, The New Birth: A Naturalistic Interpretation of Religious Conversion (NB)

Walter Burkert, Creation of the Sacred: Tracks of Biology in Early Religions (CS) [Base on the Gifford Lectures]

Students registered in 5260.001 will be required to do extra reading and a report. Choose between one of the following:
H. Eilberg-Schwartz, The Savage in Judaism: An Anthropology of Israelite Religion and Ancient Judaism - (a difficult, controversial and fruitful book, indicating for example J.G. Herder's influence on Wittgenstein)
Stewart E. Guthrie, Faces in the Clouds (good survey & critique of Hume, Feuerbach, Freud, etc.)
Confer with instructor re specific bibliography on Darwinism, esp. *Young Darwin and His Cultural Circle*.

Extra Reading Options:

Barnhart, J. "Rationality and Ethnocentrism"

Gresham Riley, editor, *Values, Objectivity, and the Social Sciences*. Addison Wesley Pub.

Marcello Truzzi, editor, *Verstehen: Subjective Understanding in the Social Sciences*. Addison Wesley Pub.

Bryan Magee, *Philosophy and the Real World*. Open Court Press.

Timothy Anders, *The Evolution of Evil*. Open Court Press.

David Parkin, editor, *The Anthropology of Evil*. Basil Blackwell Press.

Leslie A. White, *The Science of Culture: A Study of Man and Civilization*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux Pub.

Gwynn Nettler, *Explaining Crime*. McGraw Hill. The Interpretation of Cultures

Karl Popper, *The Poverty of Historicism*. Routledge.; *Conjectures and Refutations*. Routledge

Clifford Geertz, *Te Interpretation of Cultures*. Basic Books.

Yehuda Fried and Joseph Agassi, *Paranoia: Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. Vol. L. Ed. D. Reidel Pub.

D.L. Pals, *Six Theories of Religion*, 2nd ed. Oxford UP. Includes Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Freud, Eliade, Taylor & Fraser, Geertz, and Evans-Pritchard. [Should have included Mary Douglas on purity and danger]

Assignments:

JANUARY

MARCH (cont.)

T 17 - First day of class
R19 - NB 48
T 24 - NB 101
R 26- NB 150
T 30- NB 164,

Handout: "Tolstoy on Free Will and Determinism"

R 16- W600 [483] BEGIN parallel reading
T21 - Spring Break
R23 - Spring Break
T 28 - W650 [524]
R 30 - W700 [561]

FEBRUARY

R2 - W 1313-1351 [1043-1082] [Second Epilogue]
T 7- W50 [42]
R 9 - W100 [82]
T 14 - W150 [123]
R 16- W200 [163]
T21 - W250 [202]
R 23 - W300 [242]
T28 - W 315 Bks I-III [255]

MARCH

R2 - W400 [323]
T 7- W 453 Bks IV-V [365]
R 9 - W500 [402]
T 14 - W534 Bk VI [429]

APRIL

T 4 - W757 [606] CONTINUE parallel reading
R 6 - W757 [606] Bks VII-IX
T 11 - W800 [639]
R13 - W850 [679] DISCUSS First half of parallel reading
T 18- W900 [719]
R 20 - W950 [758]
T25- W1000 [798]
R 27 - W1034 [826] Bks X-XI

MAY

T 2 –DISCUSS CS in class
R4 - Make-up Tests
T 9 -
R 11 - 1:30 p.m. Final Exam: Lectures and all of CS

Rules

1. **Tests will be given at every class meeting over the reading material assigned.**
2. Option to give one class report on the optional book chosen.
3. Three days missed from class will lower the grade one letter.
4. Five days missed will earn an "F".
5. Tardiness can affect the grade.
6. Only two makeup tests are possible. To qualify for a makeup, however, the student must first pass a test on an extra article.