

Humanities 117: Philosophical Perspectives on the Humanities

Section no. 4. Mon. and Wed., 1:30–2:50pm, Cobb 207.

Professor: Abe Stone

abestone@uchicago.edu

Office: Gates-Blake 228

Phone (office): 702-3085

Office hours: Mon., 11–12; Tue., 12:30–1:30; or by appointment.

Writing Intern: Megan Benner

meg@uchicago.edu

Office: Classics 19-C

Phone (office):

Office hours: Tue., 1:30–3:30.

Course Requirements

Classroom participation. One 4–6 page paper, due in class Mon., Apr. 29, and one 8–12 page paper, due Wed., June 5.

Texts

Emerson, *Self-Reliance and Other Essays* (Dover).

Goethe, *Faust, Parts I and II*, tr. S. Atkins (Princeton).

Hume, *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, ed. Schneewind (Hackett).

Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, tr. Ellington (Hackett).

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, tr. W. Kaufmann (Vintage).

Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations*, ed. Breazeale, tr. Hollingdale (Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy).

Gene Wolfe, *Shadow and Claw* (Tor).

Gene Wolfe, *Sword and Citadel* (Tor).

(As before, you can use a different translation/edition at your own risk.)

Readings

Mon., Mar. 25: first meeting (no reading).

Wed., Mar. 27: Hume, *Principles of Morals*, §§I and II.

Mon., Apr. 1: Hume, *The Ed Hume Book of Gardening*, §§III and IV.

Wed., Apr. 3: Hume, *Principles of Morals*, §§ V and IX.

Mon., Apr. 8: Kant, *Grounding*, Preface and sect. 1.

Wed., Apr. 10: Kant, *Grounding*, sect. 2, pp. 19–32, end of no. 4 (Ak. 406–near end of Ak. 423) (ending “of all hope of the aid he wants for himself”).

Mon., Apr. 15: Kant, *Grounding*, sect. 2, pp. 32–42, end of first paragraph (Ak. 423–beginning of Ak. 437) (ending “as far as possible, to bring the moral law nearer to intuition”).

Wed., Apr. 17: Kant, *Grounding*, sect. 2, pp. 42–4, until just before the heading “Autonomy of the Will” (Ak. 437–40) (ending “itself subject to this very same legislation”); sect. 3, pp. 49–55, i.e. through the end of the subsection titled “How Is a Categorical Imperative Possible?” (Ak. 446–55).

Mon., Apr. 22: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Critique of Practical Reason* (short selections) (a total of about eight pages, but very rough going).

Wed., Apr. 24: Goethe, *Faust*, lines 1–2072 (pp. 1–52); lines 2065–3834 (pp. 67–98); “An Expanse of Open Country” and lines 4399–4612 (pp. 112–19).*

Mon., Apr. 29: Goethe, *Faust*, lines 8488–10,344 (pp. 216–61); lines 11,045–12,111 (pp. 279–305) (and **first paper due**).

Wed., May 1: Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (in your book) and “Circles” (handout).

Mon., May 6: Nietzsche, “On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,” Foreword and §§1–3, 5–6 (*Untimely Meditations*, pp. 59–77 and 83–95); “Schopenhauer as Educator,” §§1–2 (pp. 127–36).

*Note that this is quite a bit of reading. You may want to begin it early (before we finish reading Kant).

Wed., May 8: Nietzsche, “Schopenhauer as Educator” §§4–5 (pp. 146–151); from §6, the description of the scholar (p. 169, 2nd par.—beginning “Science is related to wisdom”—through p. 174, 2nd par.—ending “cannot be found in him either.”); §8 (pp. 182–94).

Mon., May 13: Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Preface and pt. 1–2 (pp. 1–56); also §§54, 61–2, 186–8, and 202–3 (about 62 pages total).

Tues., May 14 (evening): screening of *The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai: Across the Eighth Dimension*.

Wed., May 15: Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, §§204–7, 215, 219, 221, 225–31, 239, 260–62, 265, 273, 275–96 (about 47 pages total).

Mon., May 20: *Shadow and Claw*, pp. 7–94, 105–117, 136—first paragraph on 191, 195–198, 203–210 (from *The Shadow of the Torturer*). (Note: please do read p. 7, the page before the first page.)

Wed., May 22: *Shadow and Claw* pp. 217–238, 263–295, 306 (beginning with second paragraph)—323, 329–339 (from *The Claw of the Conciliator*).

Mon., May 27: **no class** (Memorial Day).

Wed., May 29: *Sword and Citadel*, pp. 9–68, 197–200 (from *The Sword of the Lictor*); 205–228, 239–243, 255–259, 272—top half of 274, 321–340 (except for bottom two lines), 353–385, 392–407 (from *The Citadel of the Autarch*).

Wed., June 5: **final paper due**.