

The Humanities and Philosophy

Humanities 320

Section: E100

Term: 2000 Summer

Instructor: Ian Angus,

AQ 5055, 291-4492

NOTE: THIS CLASS IS AT THE HARBOUR CENTRE CAMPUS.

Discussion Topics: This course will consider the role of philosophy in articulating the values that underlie the humanities and humanistic culture. It will engage the "end of philosophy" debate by considering Nietzsche's critique of Socrates as a representative of the decadent phase of Greek culture and engage in a reading of Plato's early Socratic dialogues with this interpretation in mind. Two important post-Nietzschean arguments (Lowith, Patocka) concerning the relation between history, ethics, philosophy and religion will be considered in detail in order to evaluate the contemporary role of philosophy in the humanities.

Grading: First essay, due in week 7 30%

Second essay, due at the end of the term 50%

General class participation 20%

The course requires active participation in seminar discussions and two essays. The essays should be written in acceptable humanities style. Essay requirements will be discussed in class. A style booklet is available from the English Department main office. It is advised to consult the course director on your topic, sources and argument.

Required Texts: Karl Löwith, Meaning in History.

Friedrich Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols/The Anti-Christ.

Jan Patocka, Heretical Essays in the Philosophy of History.

Plato, The Last Days of Socrates: Euthyphro

Recommended Texts: N/A

Materials/Supplies: N/A

Prerequisite/Corequisite: 45 credit hours

Notes: Visit our Humanities website

For inquiries contact wendy_sjolin@sfu.ca

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