

Advanced undergraduate (L3) « **Metaphysics** », Fall 2018
Friday, 12h-13h30 Amphi Chasles (Sorbonne)
Instructor : S. Webb (samuel.webb@paris-sorbonne.fr)

The Affective Life (*La vie affective*)

PRESENTATION

This course is conceived of as a practical complement to Claude Romano's lecture course. The idea of the course is to read and discuss in detail a certain number of texts from the philosophical tradition on affectivity. We will identify the central problems, the theses defended, the argument mobilized, and the difficulties encountered by these approaches. Reading these texts attentively and participating in the discussion are essential to the success of this class.

EVALUATION

Two in-class exercises each count for 50% of your grade.

1. Textual commentary the **October 26**
2. *Dissertation* le **December 14**
3. Third optional grade: a 15-minute exposé in class to present one of the readings.
(If this interests you, come see me after class to set a date and for further instructions).

Attention : three unjustified absences result in a zero for the course.

Evaluation criteria :

***For the commentary** : understanding of the question posed by the text and of more general stakes, understanding of the articulation of its argument ; explanation of the arguments and the specialized language of the author ; clarity of exposition ; quality of the written expression.

For the *dissertation : clarity and relevance of the introduction, fullness and unity of the problematic, interest and solidity of the point of view adopted, quality of the exposition, correctness and specificity of content; coherence of the arguments.

***For the exposé** : brief contextualization of the passage in the work and thought of the author ; understanding of the question posed by the text and its more general stakes, explanation of the arguments and the specialized language of the author ; clarity of exposition and capacity to communicate (measured in part by the interest inspired in the audience) ; analysis of the problems raised by the text.

Readings

All texts are available on Moodle.

Schedule

28/09 – Affective life and its problems. D.H. Lawrence et Bernard Williams “*Find your deepest impulse and follow that*”? Sartre « A new treatise on the passions » ?

05/10 – **PLATON**, *L'Euthyphron*, 9e-11b; **Aristote**, *Métaphysique* 1072b28-29; et **SPINOZA**, *Ethique*, III, prop 9, scol.; **LES STOÏCIENS** (Épictète, Sénèque) Textes U, V, X, Y extrait du *Manuel* et de *De la colère*

12/10 – **ARISTOTE**, *Rhétorique*, II.1-2, « Les Passions », « De la colère »

19/10 – **HUME**, *Traité de la nature humaine*, livre II, partie III, Sec. III « Des motifs qui influencent la volonté », Sec. IV « Des causes des passions violentes »

26/10 – **DST** – **Textual commentary**

02/11 – Vacances de la Toussaint

09/11 – **DESCARTES**, *Les Passions de l'âme*, art. 34-41, 45-49 ; **JAMES**, *Principles of Psychology*, ch. XXIV, tr. fr. G. Dumas in *Les émotions, OEuvres choisies*, I.

16/11 – **SARTRE**, *Esquisse d'une théorie des émotions*, Introduction, et pt. III jusqu'à la p. 100

23/11 – **SARTRE**, *Esquisse* (cont.) jusqu'à la fin p. 100-124

30/11 – **SARTRE**, *La Transcendance de l'Ego*, « La présence matérielle du moi »; **PASCAL** « Qu'est-ce que le moi? » ; **SARTRE**, extraits de *L'imaginaire*, II.II, « L'affectivité »

07/12 – **Knowing the depths of one's heart?** Extracts from de Sartre, Gide and Proust

14/12 – **Exam – *Dissertation***

21/12 – Correction of final exam. Session of free questions

