

PHM 5505 PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY  
Dr. Mountcastle

Course Description:

Nature and meaning of history and historical inquiry; speculative systems concerning process and goal of history; critical analysis dealing with method, law, objectivity and truth in writing history.

Text: Dray: *Philosophy of History*; Dray: *Philosophical Analysis of History*

Session:

Topic

1. Introduction: Instructions regarding student reports. Each Student will select two topics; one from the first three groupings and one from the last three groupings and write two critical research papers that will be presented to the seminar. There will be no formal mid-term or final exam. Academic evaluation will be based on the research papers, class presentations and quality participation in seminar discussions. Faithful class attendance is a very important part of this graduate course and will be reflected in the final evaluation.
2. Definition of terms, philosophy, history and philosophy of history.
3. Two approaches: Speculative and Analytical philosophy of history.

RELIGIOUS ARCHETYPES AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

4. Aurobindo and Indian Vedanta: History of cosmic cycle and Brahma Drama
5. St. Augustine and the Biblical Thesis: YAHWEH is Lord of History. The City of God and cosmic combat.
6. Ibn Khaldun: Culture cycles and Allah's will.

WAR AND PEACE AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

7. Kant: The Moral Law and a world society of "perpetual peace".
8. Hegel: History is a "slaughter bench". The State is the "march of God upon the earth."
9. Marx: From class war to social justice under Communism.
10. Nietzsche: Eternal Recurrence.

PHILOSOPHIES OF CULTURE

11. Spengler: Culture cycles and the "decline of the West".
12. Toynbee: Challenge and Response: Culture cycles lead to the Kingdom of God.
13. Northrop: "Meeting of East and West". Emergence of a World Culture.
14. Jaspers: Existential man exercising responsible freedom escapes atomic doom.
15. Schweitzer: Philosophy of Civilization
16. Sorokin: The Crisis of Our Age.

ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

17. Collingwood: Discovering history's "inner events" via "a priori imagination".
18. Hempel and Popper: Applying nomological explanations of natural science to history.
19. Scriven: Causes, connections and conditions in history.
20. Nagel: Freedom and determinism in history.

COSMOLOGY, THEOLOGY AND HISTORY

21. Tillich: Theology and Culture. The courage to say "YES!".
22. Schaeffer: Future of Western Civilization
23. Chardin: Mystical Naturalism – Evolution to the "Omega Point".  
Encounter with nothingness, anxiety and despair.

CONTEMPORARY EVENTS AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF HISTORY

24. End of the Cold War
25. Emergence of Regional Free Trade Zones
26. The “New World Order”
27. Resurgent Islam
28. Competing Visions of Human Rights
29. Huntington – the clash of civilizations and the remaking of World Order