

Instructor: Robert Ray

Office: 4217 Turlington

Office Hours: Tuesday: 2:30-4:00 PM; Wednesday: 2:30-4:00 PM

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Class Meetings: Tuesday – 4:05-7:05 PM (2334 Turlington)

Film Screenings: Thursday – 4:05-7:05 PM (2334 Turlington)

Textbooks:

Plato, *Meno and Other Dialogues*, trans. Robin Waterfield (Oxford World Classics)

Plato, *Defence of Socrates, Euthyphro, and Crito*, trans. David Gallop (Oxford World Classics)

Wittgenstein, *The Blue and Brown Books*

Matthews, *Dialogues with Children*

Matthews, *Philosophy and the Young Child*

Emerson: *The Annotated Emerson*

Naremore, *Acting in the Cinema*

Photocopies (marked with an *) will be available at Xerographic Copy Center, 927 NW 13th Street (375-0797)

Assignments and Grading:

The final course grade will result from the following:

1. Six two-page papers responding to prompts (lowest grade dropped)
2. One final five-page paper (counts as two short papers)
(The papers count as 60% of the course grade)
3. Brief, short-answer, daily quizzes on reading assignments
(lowest 20% dropped) (20%)
4. Class participation (with quality counting more than quantity) (20%)
5. You are allowed one unexcused absence. Each additional unexcused absence will deduct 9 points from your final course grade.
6. You must average at least 90 on the written essays to get an A or A- in the course.

Two remarks from Stanley Cavell:

What I take Socrates to have seen is that, about the questions which were causing him wonder and hope and confusion and pain, he knew he did not know what no man can know, and that any man can learn what he wanted to learn. No man is in any better position for knowing it than any other man – unless wanting to know is a special position. And this discovery about himself is the same as the discovery of philosophy, when it is the effort to find answers, and to permit questions, which nobody knows the way to nor the answer to any better than yourself.

I understand it [philosophy] as a willingness to think not about something other than what ordinary human beings think about, but rather to learn to think undistractedly about things that ordinary human beings cannot help thinking about, or anyway cannot help having occur to them. . . . philosophers after my heart will rather wish to convey the thought that while there may be no satisfying answers to such questions in certain forms, there are, so to speak, directions to answers, ways to think, that are worth the time of your life to discover.

PART I: PHILOSOPHY/DIALOGUES

Jan. 8 (Tues.): **Introduction**

Menschen am Sonntag [People on Sunday] (1930: Robert Siodmak; 73 minutes)

Jan. 15 (Tues.): **Socrates – Philosophy and The Method of Perplexity**

Plato: *Meno and Other Dialogues*, pp. 37-66 [*Laches*] (30 pages)

Plato: *Defence of Socrates*, pp. 3-23 [*Euthyphro*] (21 pages), 27-59 [“Defence of Socrates”] (33 pages)

Jan. 22 (Tues.): **Wittgenstein: What Counts as a Philosophical Question**

Wittgenstein: *The Blue and Brown Books*, pp. 1-74 (74 pages)

Jan. 29 (Tues.): **Doing Philosophy with Children I**

Matthews: *Dialogues with Children*, pp. 1-121 (121 pages)

Feb. 5 (Tues.): **Wittgenstein II**

Wittgenstein: *The Blue Book* (revisited)

*Burbules: "Tacit Teaching" (16 pages)

*Ray: "Movie/Screen, Wittgenstein/Perkins" (6 pages)

Feb. 12 (Tues.): **Doing Philosophy with Children II**

Matthews: *Philosophy and the Young Child*, pp. vii, 1-22, 56-66, 72-89, 93-95 (54 pages)

*Austin: "A Plea for Excuses" (28 pages)

Feb. 19 (Tues.): **Emerson and American Philosophy**

Emerson: pp. 27-29, 31 (from *Nature*); 87-92 (from "The American Scholar"); 100-119 ("The Divinity School Address"); 136-137 (from "Literary Ethics"); 160-185 ("Self-Reliance") (57 pages)

Feb. 26 (Tues.): **Emerson II**

Emerson: pp. 186-198 ("Circles"); 223-247 ("Experience"); 287 (from "New England Reformers") (39 pages)

*Cavell: From *Cities of Words*, pp. 2-27 (26 pages)

PART II: QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CINEMA

Mar. 12 (Tues.): **Painting/Photography/Film**

*Chatman: "What Novels Can Do That Films Can't (And Vice Versa)" (17 pages)

*Cavell: From *The World Viewed*, pp. 16-25 (10 pages)

*Bazin: "The Ontology of the Photographic Image" (8 pages)

*Vaughan: From *For Documentary*, pp. 1-8, 181-192 (20 pages)

*Barthes: "The Third Meaning" (22 pages)

Blow-Up (1966; Michelangelo Antonioni; 111 minutes) **See before this class.**

Mar. 19 (Tues.): **Film Acting/Stardom/Pretending I**

Naremore: *Acting in the Cinema*, pp. 1-33 (34 pages)

*Austin: "Pretending" (19 pages)

Mar. 26 (Tues.): **Film Acting/Stardom/Pretending II**

Naremore: *Acting in the Cinema*, pp. 34-96 (63 pages)

*Wittgenstein: "Aspect and Image" (8 pages)

Apr. 2 (Tues.): **Rules**

*Wittgenstein: "Following a Rule" (21 pages)

Apr. 9 (Tues.): **Stanley Cavell and Philosophical Film Criticism I**

*Cavell: From *Pursuits of Happiness*, pp. 1-42 (42 pages)

*Cavell: "A Capra Moment" (9 pages)

Apr. 16 (Tues.): **Cavell and Philosophical Film Criticism II: Emphasis**

*Cavell: "What Becomes of Things on Film?" (9 pages)

*Cavell: "The Thought of Movies" (20 pages)

Film Screenings

Jan. 10 (Thurs.): No Screening

Jan. 17 (Thurs.): No Screening

Jan. 24 (Thurs.): *Sherlock, Jr.* (1924: Buster Keaton: 45 minutes)
The General (1927: Buster Keaton: 74 minutes)

Jan. 31 (Thurs.): No screening

Feb. 7 (Thurs.): *Anatomy of a Murder* (1959: Otto Preminger; 160 minutes)

Feb. 14 (Thurs.): *Holiday* (1938: George Cukor; 96 minutes)

Feb. 21 (Thurs.): *The Philadelphia Story* (1940: George Cukor; 112 minutes)

Feb. 28 (Thurs.): *Blow-Up* (1966: Michelangelo Antonioni: 111 minutes)
Une Partie de Campagne [*A Day in the Country*] (1946: Jean Renoir; 40 minutes)

- Mar. 14 (Thurs.): *The Lady Eve* (1941: Preston Sturges; 94 minutes)
- Mar. 21 (Thurs.): *Vertigo* (1958: Alfred Hitchcock; 128 minutes)
- Mar. 28 (Thurs.): *La Règle du Jeu* [*The Rules of the Game*] (1939: Jean Renoir; 106 minutes)
- Apr. 4 (Thurs.): *It Happened One Night* (1934: Frank Capra; 105 minutes)
- Apr. 11 (Thurs.): *Close-Up* (1990: Abbas Kiarostami; 98 minutes)