Schleiermacher

Wesley J. Wildman — Boston University — Fall 2011 — STH TT899/TT934

Course Description

The primary aim of this course is to read and understand the theology of Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher, one of the most important and influential European intellectuals of the 19th century, and known variously as the Father of Romanticism, the Father of Hermeneutics, the Father of German Plato studies, the Father of Modern Protestant Theology, and the Father of Liberal Christian Theology. The course focuses on The Christian Faith (CF) but also covers some other of his writings—particularly On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers (OR) and Letters to Lücke (LL)—and some biographical material. The secondary aim is to help students develop their own theological ideas in detailed conversation with Schleiermacher’s, a purpose for which CF is particularly well suited.

The class has 800-level and 900-level designations to accommodate both advanced masters and doctoral students, respectively. Classes will meet once a week on Wednesdays from 8:00-11:00. Each class will be conducted in the seminar discussion format with mini-lectures given by the instructor as needed or requested by the class. Typically the class will read and discuss certain sections extremely closely while lectures and student presentations will keep us oriented to the wider territory within the world of the two books.

Grading

The main product of the course will be a research paper involving close reading and critique of one aspect of Schleiermacher’s CF. The paper should be about 3,000 words for TT899 students and 5,000 words for TT934 students. The topic is to be approved in advance by the instructor. This research paper will earn the largest share of the grade (40%), with the remainder being based on detailed 1,000-1,500 word reviews of two books on the review list (i.e. English-language biographies, secondary works, or other writings of Schleiermacher—20%), seminar leadership and contributions to the online Reader’s Guide for CF (20%), and quality of participation (20%).

Class output, where appropriate, will be posted to the “Friedrich Schleiermacher Resources” website, which is the largest Schleiermacher site in the world (http://people.bu.edu/wwildman/schl/).

Policies

Incompletes are not allowed—as a matter of fairness—except in cases of serious emergencies. Don’t leave your emergency to the last minute. Paperwork is necessary.

Students with Disabilities—Any students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should meet with the instructor as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Students taking the course for doctoral credit are required to do all work at a doctoral level. In addition, students should submit one 1000-word review of a recent book related to the course content for publication in an appropriate journal. This review is in addition to regular coursework.

The STH Academic Code of Conduct may be found on the STH website at: www.bu.edu/sth/academic/academic-conduct. All students are required to familiarize themselves with this code, its definitions of misconduct, and its sanctions. Students should especially familiarize themselves with the section on plagiarism.
Proposed Seminar Schedule

Here is a proposed schedule of readings. This being a seminar, we will consider ourselves free to deviate from this timetable if it seems advisable. Students will also read and present on other relevant literature surrounding Schleiermacher’s life and work (see “Books Suitable for Reviews” below”).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/7</td>
<td>Introduction to Schleiermacher and his theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>OR Crouter’s Introduction and Speech 1</td>
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<td>9/21</td>
<td>OR Speeches 2, 3</td>
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<td>9/28</td>
<td>OR Speeches 4, 5 [first review due prior to class]</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>CF Introduction, Chapter I (1-93)</td>
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<td>10/12</td>
<td>CF Introduction, Chapter II (94-128); LL (entire)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>CF Part I Section I (131-193)</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>CF Part I Section II and Section III (194-256)</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>CF Part II First Aspect (259-354) [second review due prior to class]</td>
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<td>11/9</td>
<td>CF Part II Second Aspect Section I Division I (355-475)</td>
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<td>11/16</td>
<td>No Class: Fall Recess</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>CF Part II Second Aspect Section I Division II (476-524)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td>CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division I (525-581)</td>
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<td>Not read: CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division II (582-695) [Doctoral students will produce online material for this reading though it won’t be discussed in class]</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division III, Section III, and Conclusion (696-751)</td>
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Required Books


Books Suitable for Reviews


Schleiermacher, Friedrich D.E. Schleiermacher’s Soliloquies. Translated by Horace Leland Friess. Open Court, 1926.


