

**Graduate Liberal Studies
LS 811: Tradition and Modernity**

Beyond the Enemy: On Friendship, Hospitality and Community

**Instructor: Am Johal Spring Semester 2022
Harbour Centre – Room 2925 – 6:30-9:20pm, Monday nights**

**Office: GC 2370 SFU Woodward's – 149 West Hastings
Email: am.johal@sfu.ca**

DESCRIPTION

Beyond the Enemy: On Friendship, Hospitality and Community

Discussions on friendship, hospitality and community resonate from philosophy's historical foundations and continue to be taken up by contemporary writers and thinkers. The problems that they raise seem to be intractable and irresolvable. In a time of rising forms of authoritarian populism, ecological emergencies, thickening borders and planetary scale technological transformation, this course revisits some classic texts before focusing on more recent works to interrogate some of our present concerns with these themes and to examine what they might have to critically offer to our understanding of the near-future.

Selected Readings and Schedule (Subject to Change):

Week 1 – January 9th

Introduction

Week 2 – January 16th

Aristotle

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.8.viii.html>

Montaigne

Of Friendship

<https://naomigryn.com/Ebooks/Of-Friendship-Montaigne.pdf>

Week 3 – January 23rd

Jean-Luc Nancy

The Inoperative Community

Nancy, Jean-Luc. *The Inoperative Community*. Edited by Peter Connor, Translated by Peter Connor et al., University of Minnesota Press, 1991.

Week 4 – January 30th

Elena Ferrante

My Brilliant Friend

Ferrante, Elena. *My Brilliant Friend*. Translated by Ann Goldstein, (New York: Europa Editions, 2012).

Week 5 – February 6th

Giorgio Agamben

The Coming Community

Agamben, Giorgio. *The Coming Community*. Translated by Michael Hardt. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).

Week 6 – February 13th

Jacques Derrida / Ann Dufourmantelle

Derrida, Jacques and Dufourmantelle, Anne. *Of Hospitality: Anne Dufourmantelle Invites Jacques Derrida to Respond (Cultural Memory in the Present)*. (Stanford: University of Stanford Press, 2000).

Week 7 – February 20th Reading Week

Week 8 – February 27th

Leela Gandhi

Affective Communities

Gandhi, Leela. *Affective Communities*. (Durham : Duke University Press, 2006)

Week 9 – March 6th

Zygmunt Bauman

Strangers at Our Door

Bauman, Zygmunt. *Strangers at Our Door*. (London: Polity, 2016).

Week 10 – March 13th

Achille Mbembe

Out of the Dark Night: Essays on Decolonization

Mbembe, Achille. *Out of the Dark Night: Essays on Decolonization*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2021).

Week 11 – March 20th

The Earthly Community: Reflections on the Last Utopia

Mbembe, Achille. *The Earthly Community: Reflections on the Last Utopia* (Rotterdam: V2 Publishing, 2022).

Week 12 – March 27th

Amitav Ghosh

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016).

Week 13 – April 3rd

TBA

Week 14 – April 10th

TBA

Grading:

Participation 30%

Bi-Weekly Reflections 20%

Presentations 20%

Final Paper 30%

Disclaimer: This course will involve extensive writing so if this is a deterrent, this class may not be for you. These writing requirements range from the informal and casual to the rigorous and scholarly and are frequent throughout the semester. So it is important not to fall behind at any point throughout the duration of the course.

The school expects that the grades awarded in this course will bear some reasonable relation to established university-wide practices with respect to both levels and distribution of grades. In addition, The School will follow Policy S10.01 with respect to Academic Integrity, and Policies S10.02, S10.03 and S10.04 as regards Student Discipline. [Note: as of May 1, 2009 the previous T10 series of policies covering Intellectual Honesty (T10.02) and Academic Discipline (T10.03) have been replaced with the new S10 series of policies.] These policies, procedures and guidelines will be assiduously upheld. They protect your rights, as well as those of the faculty. It is particularly important that you be aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, submitting a paper to more than one professor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade in the course, and be reported to the proper university office. If you have any doubts about any of these practices, you must confer with the professor or the teaching assistant.

Attendance is mandatory.

Attendance/Participation—30%

This is a graduate level seminar course that relies heavily on student participation and class discussions to generate ideas about the subject matter. This portion of the grade will be a composite of all participation in the class and includes contribution to class discussion and mini-presentations.

Bi-Weekly Write--Up—20%

You will be asked for three bi-weekly reflection assignments (between 250 and 500 words) on some aspect of readings, discussion, guest speakers and questions related to the course content. These will be assigned bi-weekly.

Write-ups should be submitted before the assigned class.

Presentation – 20%

There will be a sign up opportunity to present on one of the readings in the semester. This will involve preparing a one page summary to share with the class and to orally present on the author and some of the main themes in the book and leading the class in a discussion of the book/reading.

Final Research Paper and Presentation– 30 %

This is the most substantive portion of the class and much of the work you do through the coming weeks should lead up to this assignment. Hence, be particularly mindful of this project early by consciously and actively exploring possible research topics from the outset. I will be available to assist you during office hours or by appointment. In the last meeting of the course, each student will be expected to give a short presentation of their research paper to the class.

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Disability

Any students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities. For exam and other accommodations, students are responsible for contacting the Disabilities Services Officer to arrange their specific exam accommodations at the start of the semester. Then, prior to each exam, students are required to take an Examination Request Form to their instructor. <http://www.sfu.ca/csd> or 778-782-3112.
