

The History of Philosophy Part 3 Schopenhauer to Now  
Jane O'Grady

**COURSE OUTLINE**

(This is a ten-week course, but some of the topics will occupy more than one lecture.)

1. Schopenhauer – endless blind striving; consciousness is the mere crust of the molten core of being.
2. John Stuart Mill, liberal, utilitarian and feminist – Is an action's goodness a matter of how much it promotes high-quality pleasure for all? How do we ensure our freedom from tyranny of any sort?
3. Nietzsche on living dangerously, the death of God, 'evil' as the invention of the vengeful underclass, existentialism, naturalism, the questionable value of truth.
4. William James: pragmatism: the true = the useful; radical empiricism; the James-Lange Theory of emotion: we don't cry because we feel sad, but feel sad because we cry.
5. Heidegger  
(Sacha Golob, from Kings College London, will give the talk).
6. Sartre: the nothingness of self, self-creation, nausea, and the obnoxious Other
7. Wittgenstein: meaning is use, language as games, beetles in boxes.
8. Contemporary philosophical struggles – what is the mind? Smart, Putnam, Davidson, Nagel, Paul and Patricia Churchland – the self and mental stuff are vanishing, but what is it like to be a bat?

**READING**

**Histories of Philosophy**

*A New History of Western Philosophy* Anthony Kenny (Oxford University Press)

*The Oxford History of Western Philosophy* Anthony Kenny, ed. (Oxford University Press)

*The Great Philosophers: an introduction to Western Philosophy* Bryan Magee (Oxford University Press)

*The Story of Philosophy* Bryan Magee (Dorling-Kindersley)

*Philosophy and Philosophers* John Shand (UCL Press)

**Philosophy as issues and concepts**

*The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy* Simon Blackburn (Oxford University Press)

*What does it all mean?* Thomas Nagel (Oxford University Press)

**Philosophers in their own words**

*A Dictionary of Philosophical Quotations* A. J. Ayer and Jane O'Grady (Blackwell)

*Western Philosophy: an anthology* John Cottingham, ed. (Blackwell)

## **Recommended texts of the philosophers we'll look at**

Schopenhauer, Arthur *The World as Will and Representation*, volumes 1 and 2  
'On the Freedom of the Will'

Mill, John Stuart *Utilitarianism*  
*On Liberty*  
*The Subjection of Women*

These are all essays, although published as books or together in different combinations in various editions.

Nietzsche, Friedrich *Beyond Good and Evil*, especially parts 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9  
*On the Genealogy of Morals*, especially essays 1 and 2

James, William 'The Will to Believe'  
'What Pragmatism Means'  
Both are essays – in various collections, e.g. *Selected Papers* (Everyman)  
'The Place of Affectional Facts in a World of Pure Experience' (in *Essays in Radical Empiricism*)  
'What is an Emotion?' (essay of 1884, and chapter 25 in *Principles of Psychology*)

Sartre, Jean-Paul *Being and Nothingness*  
*Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions*

Wittgenstein, Ludwig *Philosophical Investigations*  
*The Blue and Brown Books*

O'Connor, T and Robb, D, ed *Philosophy of Mind: contemporary readings*  
or Heil, John, ed *Philosophy of Mind: a guide and anthology*  
or Rosenthal, David, ed *The Nature of Mind*  
Lyons, Williams *Matters of the Mind* (Edinburgh)