

The History of Philosophy Part 3

Schopenhauer to Wittgenstein (Romanticism to Analysis)

Jane O'Grady

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a ten-week course, but some topics will occupy less, some more, than one lecture.

1. **Schopenhauer**: endless blind striving; consciousness is the mere crust of the molten core of being; free will is an illusion.
2. **Hegel** – lecture by Sacha Golob from King's College, London.
3. **Darwin and Freud**: humans toppled from their pedestal – merely a sort of animal; and 'the ego is not master in its own house'.
4. **John Stuart Mill**: Should the only criterion for an action's goodness be how far it promotes the greatest happiness of the greatest number? Is free speech justified? The tyranny of the majority?
5. **Nietzsche** on living dangerously, the death of God, 'evil' as the invention of the vengeful underclass, existentialism, naturalism, the questionable value of truth, eternal recurrence.
6. **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.
7. **Into the 20th century**: Logical Positivism, language, Boo-Hooray morality, and social constructionism.
8. **Heidegger**
(Sacha Golob, from Kings College London, will give the talk).
9. **Sartre**: the nothingness of self, self-creation, nausea, and the obnoxious Other.
10. **Wittgenstein**: meaning is use, language as games, beetles in boxes.

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'

Darwin, Charles *The Origin of Species*

Freud: A Very Short Introduction by Anthony Storr (OUP)

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'
(*Essays in Radical Empiricism*)
'What is an Emotion?' (essay (1884), chapter 25 in *Principles of Psychology*)

Ayer, A J *Language, Truth and Logic*

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

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