PH 460 CROSS-CULTURAL PHILOSOPHY
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION: The idea behind this 400 course, an upper-level seminar is that those IES students who already have a relatively solid background in philosophy might find a forum where they are able to study philosophy on a more advanced level than the one offered by the course “PH360 CROSS-CULTURAL PHILOSOPHY”, and/or that they need additional help with some concepts discussed in PH360. PH460 is “built upon” PH360 (PH460 includes PH360) in the sense that while all students in the seminar attend PH360 (meeting twice a week for two classroom-hours, i.e. 2x90 minutes), they are also offered an additional session, meeting once a week for 90 minutes. The main goal of the additional session, creating a real upper-level seminar atmosphere is to help students write an essay of about 15 standard pages on a topic they are particularly interested in, and/or they already have done some research on, at their respective home universities.

The basic presupposition behind the course is as behind PH360: philosophy is an activity we “are unable to resist”: since we reflect on the events around us, on ourselves and on our actions, and since we are also able to reflect on that reflection, and so on, we are, in a certain sense, “always already in philosophy”, yet there are various ways of performing this reflection. Thus, we may even “feel at home” in philosophy. The course looks at philosophy not as something which can be “explained” (or contains “self-explanation”) across time but as a rich collection of questions and problems worth visiting again and again. The ultimate presupposition is that whether later a “professional” philosopher or not, each of us should develop a personal and unique philosophy of her or his own. The cross-cultural aspect of the course is highlighted by juxtaposing the so-called Continental (German-French) and the Analytic (British and American) traditions in philosophy, throughout the semester.

CREDITS: 4 credits

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: recommended chiefly to those students who are philosophy majors at their respective home universities, but it will also be of interest to those with a philosophy minor, to religious studies and psychology majors, and even to those who already have some significant experience in philosophy. It is also open to those who have a genuine interest in philosophy and would like to produce a serious essay on a philosophical problem they find worth investigating in depth.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: Since the course is built upon the PH360 course, students in PH460 will be required to attend PH360, and meet with one another and the instructor for an additional session of 90 minutes for 10 weeks. This means that students in this course will not be required to write the Midterm and Final of PH360 but they will be working on a roughly 15 page-long essay. PH360 is composed of 20, ninety minute-long meetings (see the separate description!)

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand that philosophy, comprehensive as it is, and claiming to be the “mother” of a great number of modern disciplines, has its own characteristic areas and reductions
- Be familiar with, and outline clearly, both orally, and in writing, the most significant areas of philosophical thinking, from the standpoint of our present situation
- Distinguish between the two major traditions in Western philosophy: the “Continental” and the “Anglo-Saxon” one, and should also know that, in the past twenty years, they have started to seek not what would divide but what would connect them
- Creatively contribute to a philosophical debate and write a philosophical argumentative research-essay, using the appropriate methods and style of reasoning.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Upper-level Seminar Paper: a roughly 15 page-long essay on a topic approved by the instructor and discussed in the weekly seminar sessions.

The topics to be written on will be discussed at the very beginning of the term and must meet the instructor’s approval. The ultimate choice of the topic will try to cater to individual needs and interests. The topic may conveniently be chosen from among the topics dealt with in PH360, thus developing a problem, an argument etc. into an in-depth analysis in the form of a mature philosophical essay. Since one of the tasks in the upper-level seminar will precisely be to collect
secondary literature (also to be approved of, and possibly extended, by the instructor) on the subject-matter the student will be writing on, no list of secondary sources will be given beforehand.

The main substance of the upper-level seminar sessions would be as follows:

- distribution and discussion of the topics the students will be working on (1st week)
- research phase (2nd-3rd week): collecting relevant secondary literature, presenting outlines
- presenting drafts and sections of the essays (4th-5th-6th-7th week)
- presenting “almost ready” second drafts (8th-9th week)
- presentation and submission of finished essays (10th week)

The sessions themselves will consist of presentations and critical commentaries on the material presented (and preferably read beforehand) by all members of the seminar.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: See IES Abroad Vienna handbook.

CONTENT: here I only list the material of the seminar. This course includes PH360, so please see the syllabus of PH360 for further details of that course!

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| Week 1   | Introduction
          getting acquainted, distribution of topics, discussing course-work |
| Week 2   | Showing results of collected secondary literature, adjustments and possible extensions, presentation of outlines |
| Week 3   | Showing results of collected secondary literature, adjustments and possible extensions, presentation of outlines |
| Week 4   | Presenting drafts and essay-sections                                    |
| Week 5   | Presenting drafts and essay-sections                                    |
|          | In lieu of the Midterm, the first draft of (/ half of) the essay is due |
| Week 6   | Presenting drafts and essay-sections                                    |
| Week 7   | Presenting drafts and essay-sections                                    |
| Week 8   | Presenting and discussing second drafts                                 |
| Week 9   | Presenting and discussing second drafts                                 |
| Week 10  | Submission of final versions of essays                                  |

RECOMMENDED READINGS: