

MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT: "GOD," "WORLD," AND "PERSON"

RELI/JSP/PHI 435

Fall 2013

T 3:30-6:15, Bowne 110

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hours: by appt.

God, World, and Person –in this this course, we critically explore core philosophical concepts and dynamics in the philosophical writings of Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig, two of the most important Jewish philosophers/philosophers of Judaism of the 20th century. In this class, we will historically identify and critically assess claims regarding personal experience (sex, death, relation, dialogue), social identity (community, society, politics), and religious experience (the encounter with God, the performance of ritual, textual interpretation). Particular attention goes to human subjectivity and intersubjectivity, and to the role of art and imagination in relation to religion and reason, and to the emergence of Judaism in the modern period.

texts:

Martin Buber On Judaism

Martin Buber I and Thou

Franz Rosenzweig, The Star of Redemption

Franz Rosenzweig, On Jewish Learning

Course Reader (#1002 at The Copy Centers @ Marshall Sq. Mall)

requirements:

weekly 1 page reading-critiques

class attendance and participation

1 five page paper

1 ten-twelve page paper

readings:

INTRODUCTION

8/27 Introduction to class (no assignment)

EARLY BUBER

9/3 "Address on Jewish Art" "Jewish Artists" in COURSE READER
selections from The Legend of the Baal Shem in COURSE READER
Asher Biemann "Aesthetic Education in Martin Buber: Jewish Renaissance and the
Artist" TBA
Biemann, "The Problem of Tradition and Reform in Jewish Renaissance and
Renaissancism" TBA

9/10 Crisis and Renewal: On Judaism, pp.3-21, 34-55
Zionism: On Judaism, pp.56-78 and Seltzer pp.626-42
Paul Mendes-Flohr, "Fin de Siècle Orientalism, the Ostjuden, and the Aesthetics of Jewish Self-Affirmation" TBA

9/17 "Jewish Religiosity" and "Myth in Judaism" in On Judaism
Letter from Gustav Landauer to Buber, TBA
Paul Mendes-Flohr, selections from Mysticism and Dialogue TBA
Braiterman, selections from Shape of Revelation, chp 2 TBA

MARTIN BUBER AND FRANZ ROSENZWEIG: EARLY 1920s

9/24 I and Thou, prt. 1
I and Thou, prt. 2

10/1 I and Thou, prt. 3
Critique of Buber: Letter from Rosenzweig to Buber in Rivka Horowitz, Buber's Way to I and Thou and Steven Katz, "Martin Buber's Epistemology" in COURSE READER
Braiterman, selections from Shape of Revelation, chp3 TBA

10/8 Star of Redemption, INTRODUCTION
Star of Redemption, prt I: pp.34-5, 38-40, 41-2, 53-57, 60-1, 62-4, 70-3, 76-82, 83-90 (GOD, WORLD, "MAN")

10/15 Star of Redemption, prt. II, bk. 1: pp.112-16, 124-34, 150-5 (CREATION)
Star of Redemption, prt. II, bk. 2: pp.156-64, 167-88, 198-204 (REVELATION)

**** 1st PAPER DUE TODAY ****

10/22 Star of Redemption, prt II, bk. 3: pp.205-15, 217-25, 227-42, 250-3
(REDEMPTION)
Selection from Martin Kavka, Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy, TBA

10/29 Star of Redemption, prt. III, bk. 1 (THE FIRE: JUDAISM)
Star of Redemption, prt. III, bk. 3 & Conclusion (THE STAR) (THE GATE)

TEACHING & LAW

- 11/5 Buber, "Herut" in On Judaism, pp.149-74
 Rosenzweig, "Revelation and Law" "The Builders," The Commandments: Divine
 or Human?" in On Jewish Learning
 Rosenzweig, "Towards a Renaissance of Jewish Learning," "Upon Opening the
 Jüdisches Lehrhaus" in On Jewish Learning
- 11/12 Buber, "The Person of Today and the Bible," "The Language of Botschaft," "On
 Word Choice in Translating the Bible" in COURSE READER
 Rosenzweig, Jehudah Halevi Afterword in COURSE READER

RESPONSE TO CRITICS

- 11/19 Siegfried Kracauer, selections from The Mass Ornament in COURSE READER
 Leo Strauss, preface to *Spinoza's Critique of Religion*, from Jewish Philosophy and
 the Crisis of Modernity in COURSE READER
- 12/3 Braiterman, Shape of Revelation, TBA
 Rosenzweig, "The Eternal" in COURSE READER
 Martin Buber, "Dialogue" in Between Man and Man in COURSE READER

FINAL PAPER DUE LAST DAY OF EXAMINATION PERIOD @ 501 HL

