

Philosophy 656
Seminar in Social & Political Thought:
Adorno's *Negative Dialectics*
Autumn 2011
Richard A. Lee, Jr.

Office Hours: MW 4:00-5:30pm, and by appointment
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Description

In this course, we will pursue a close reading of most of Adorno's *Negative Dialectics*.

Requirements

Students who participate in both quarters of the course will be required to write one 18-20 page paper on any topic related to the text. This paper should be written on the basis of research, i.e., having read some scholarship related to the text, to Adorno, and to the topic under consideration. I will be happy to help you locate some resources for your work.

Students who are only participating in the first quarter will be required to write a 10-12 page research paper.

I will be happy to discuss topics with you and to read and comment on drafts, as long as they are submitted in a timely fashion. Incompletes will not be allowed.

Although the class has decided not to do presentations, students are still expected to come prepared and to participate in discussions in class.

Reading Schedule

The list below gives the Section names taken from the Ashton translation. If you are using the German, you should be able to easily find these sections. They are not clearly marked *within* the body of the text, but they are the headers across the top of the pages. Since many will be using the German or some alternate translation, I have not used page numbers.

Introduction

September 14: "The Possibility of Philosophy" through "Infinity"
September 21: "The Speculative Moment" through "Argument and Experience"
September 28: "Vertiginousness" through "The Qualitative Moment of Rationality"
October 5: "Quality and Individual" through "Rhetoric"

Part Two: Negative Dialectics: Concept and Categories

October 12: "The Indissoluble 'Something'" through "On the Dialectics of Identity"
October 19: "Cogitative Self-Reflection" through "Critique of Positive Negation"
October 26: "Individuality not the Ultimate Either" through "Particularity and the Particular"
November 2: "Subject-Object Dialectics" through "The Object not a Datum"
November 9: "Objectivity and Reification" through "Materialism Imageless"