A common conception among Chinese thinkers is that heaven is round and earth is square, and that the merging of the two creates wholeness in the universe. Several Western philosophers (including St. Anselm and Immanuel Kant) have contrasted round and square in their own writings, treating them as opposed entities. Historical thinkers in China and the West have struggled with seemingly opposed pairs of concepts, from yin and yang to good and evil. In this seminar, the third and final in a series on the topic (they are offered separately, as independent courses), we will investigate neurological and philosophical approaches to memory and the past, before proceeding to a discussion of a perspective on historical and cultural understanding that is able to incorporate opposed concepts such as “realism” and “idealism” without resorting to the extremes of deterministic or idealistic language. We will focus, in particular, on a number of key historical texts that have been used by Chinese, Japanese, and Western interpreters as sources for their own historical writing. By examining the manner in which historians have used their own primary sources, we will learn a great deal about historical methodology and the philosophy of history, and develop new paradigms for negotiating the complex terrain of the “ideal” and “real.”

This seminar is intended to introduce key philosophical concepts through the weekly readings and discussions, so that students have the conceptual tools to analyze a work of historiography or ethnography on their own. Each student will choose one such work (topical
papers are possible, but they should be discussed with the professor before embarking upon them) and spend the term analyzing it in detail. Students are strongly encouraged to choose a works that they have already studied, so that they can begin analyzing them immediately, rather than spending time getting to know the authors’ arguments. Students will write a seminar paper at the end of the term which contains their analyses of the works they have chosen. The term will end with formal presentations in early December.

**Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Logs and Discussion Notes</td>
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<td>Thought Papers</td>
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<td>Seminar Paper</td>
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*Class attendance and participation is expected. More than one absence will significantly affect your grade. Late assignments will be penalized.*

*All coursework is due on Friday, December 8th*

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**History 310**

**Resolving Round and Square**

**Autumn 2006**

**Week I (August 29) — Introduction**

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*

Lecture One: Biology and Behavior — An Introduction
Lecture Two: The Basic Cells of the Nervous System

The Many Faces of Consciousness: A Field Guide

**Week II (September 5)**

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*

Lecture Three: How Neurons Communicate
Lecture Four: Learning and Synaptic Plasticity


*I Stream of Consciousness*

James — The Stream of Consciousness
Dennett — The Cartesian Theater and “Filling In” the Stream of Consciousness

*II Consciousness, Science, and Methodology*

Flanagan — The Robust Phenomenology
Goldman — Consciousness, Folk Psychology, and Cognitive Science
Churchland — Can Neurobiology Teach Us Anything About Consciousness?

Elizabeth Clark. *History, Theory, Text: Historians and the Linguistic Turn*

Introduction: An Overview
Defending and Lamenting History
Anglo-American Philosophy and the Historians
Language and Structures
The Territory of the Historian
Narrative and History
The New Intellectual History
Texts and Contexts
History, Theory, and Premodern Texts
**Week III** (September 12)

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*

Lecture Five: The Dynamics of Interacting Neurons
Lecture Six: The Limbic System


11 Consciousness, Science, and Methodology—continued
   - Dennett—Time and the Observer: The Where and When of Consciousness in the Brain
   - Block—Begging the Question against Phenomenal Consciousness
   - Van Gulick—Time for More Alternatives

Joseph Mali. *Mythistory: The Making of a Modern Historiography*

Myth, History, and Mythistory
The Vico Road: From Livy to Michelet
Jacob Burkhartt: Myth historian
Aby Warburg: History as Ancient Mythology
Ernst Kantorowicz: History as New Mythology
Walter Benjamin: History as Modern Mythology
Ideareal History: A Lesson from Joyce

300-word “book choice” for final projects due Friday, September 15th at 5:00 p.m.

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**Week IV** (September 19)

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*

Lecture Seven: The Autonomic Nervous System (ANS)
Lecture Eight: The Regulation of Hormones by the Brain


11 The Psychology and Neuropsychology of Consciousness—continued
   - Farah—Visual Perception and Visual Awareness after Brain Damage: A Tutorial Overview
   - Bisiach—Understanding Consciousness: Clues from Unilateral Neglect and Related Disorders
   - Shallice—Modularity and Consciousness
   - White—Curse of the Qualia

Halliwell, Stephen. *The Aesthetics of Mimesis*

**Part I**
Representation and Reality: Plato and Mimesis
Romantic Puritanism: Plato and the Psychology of Mimesis
Mimesis and the Best Life: Plato’s Repudiation of the Tragic
More than Meets the Eye: Looking into Plato’s Mirror

**Part II**
Inside and Outside the Work of Art: Aristotelian Mimesis Reevaluated
The Rewards of Mimesis: Pleasure, Understanding, and Emotion in Aristotle’s Aesthetics
Tragic Pity: Aristotle and Beyond
Music and the Limits of Mimesis: Aristotle versus Philodemus

**Part III**
Truth or Delusion? The Mimeticist Legacy in Hellenistic Philosophy
Images of Life: Mimesis and Literary Criticism after Aristotle
Renewal and Transformation: Neoplatonism and Mimesis
An Inheritance Contested: Renaissance to Modernity

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**Week V** (September 26)

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*

Lecture Nine: The Regulation of the Brain by Hormones
Lecture Ten: The Evolution of Behavior

III The Psychology and Neuropsychology of Consciousness—continued
Crick—Towards a Neurobiological Theory of Consciousness

IV Consciousness and Content
McGinn—Consciousness and Content
Davies—Externalism and Experience
Tye—A Representational Theory of Pains and their Phenomenal Character

Pippin, Robert. The Persistence of Subjectivity: On the Kantian Aftermath
Introduction: “Bourgeois Philosophy and the Problem of the Subject
The Kantian Aftermath: Reaction and Revolution in Modern German Philosophy
Necessary Conditions for the Possibility of What Isn’t: Heidegger on Failed Meaning
Gadamer’s Hegel: Subjectivity and Reflection
Negative Ethics: Adorno on the Falseness of Bourgeois Life
The Unavailability of the Ordinary: Strauss on the Philosophical Fate of Modernity
Hannah Arendt and the Bourgeois Origins of Totalitarian Evil
On not Being a Neo-Structuralist: Remarks on Manfred Frank and Romantic Subjectivity
Leaving Nature Behind, or Two Cheers for Subjectivism: On John McDowell
Postscript: On McDowell’s Response to “Leaving Nature Behind”
The Ethical Status of Civility
Medical Practice and Social Authority in Modernity
“The Force of Felt Necessity”: Literature, Ethical Knowledge, and Law
What Was Abstract Art?” (From the Point of View of Hegel)
On “Becoming What One Is” (And Failing): Proust’s Problematic Selves

Week VI (October 3)
Robert Sapolsky. Biology and Human Behavior
Lecture Eleven: The Evolution of Behavior—Some Examples
Lecture Twelve: Cooperation, Competition, and Neuroeconomics


IV Consciousness and Content—continued
Peacocke—Sensation and the Content of Experience: A Distinction

V Function of Consciousness
Flanagan—Consciousness and the Epiphenomenalist Suspicion
Block—On a Confusion about a Function of Consciousness

Sewell, William. Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation
Theory, History, and Social Science
The Political Unconscious of Social and Cultural History, or, Confessions of a Former…
Three Temporalities: Toward an Eventful Sociology
The Concept(s) of Culture
History, Synchrony, and Culture: Reflections on the Work of Clifford Geertz
A Theory of the Event: Marshall Sahlins’s “Possible Theory of History”
Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille
Historical Duration and Temporal Complexity: The Strange Career of Marseille’s…
Refiguring the “Social” in Social Science: An Interpretivist Manifesto

Week VII (October 10)
Robert Sapolsky. Biology and Human Behavior
Lecture Thirteen: What Do Genes Do? Microevolution of Genes
Lecture Fourteen: What Do Genes Do? Macroevolution of Genes

Dennett—The Path Not Taken
Chalmers—Availability: The Cognitive Basis of Experience?
Church—Fallacies or Analyses?
Burge—Two Kinds of Consciousness
Van Gulick—Understanding the Phenomenal Mind: Are We All Just Armadillos? II

VI Metaphysics of Consciousness
Kripke—The Identity Thesis
Searle—Reductionism and Irreducibility
Rey—A Question about Consciousness

Walton, Kendall. Mimesis as Make-Believe: On the Foundations of the Representational Arts
Part I: Representations
Representation and Make-Believe
Fiction and Nonfiction
Objects of Representation
The Mechanics of Generation

Part II: Appreciating Representation
Puzzles and Problems
Participation
Psychological Participation

Part III: Modes and Manners
Depictive Representation
Verbal Representation

Part IV: Semantics and Ontology
Doing without Fictional Entities
Existence

“Brainstorming” assignment due Friday, October 13th at 5:00 p.m.

Week VIII (October 17) — Spring Break
Recommended Reading
T.S. Eliot. Four Quartets
Burnt Norton
The Dry Salvages
East Coker
Little Gidding

Week IX (October 26) — Note: Thursday Meeting
Robert Sapolsky. Biology and Human Behavior
Lecture Fifteen: Behavior Genetics
Lecture Sixteen: Behavior Genetics and Prenatal Environment

VI Metaphysics of Consciousness—continued
Jackson—Finding the Mind in the Natural World
Searle—Breaking the Hold: Silicon Brains, Conscious Robots, and Other Minds
Shoemaker—The First Person Perspective

VII Subjectivity and Explanatory Gap
Nagel—What Is It Like to Be a Bat?
McGinn—Can We Solve the Mind-Body Problem?
Levine—On Leaving Out What It’s Like

Popper, Karl. The Open Society and Its Enemies: I — The Spell of Plato
Preface to the First Edition
Preface to the Second Edition
Introduction
The Spell of Plato

The Myth of Origin and Destiny
1. Historicism and the Myth of Destiny
2. Heraclitus
3. Plato’s Theory of Forms or Ideas

Plato’s Descriptive Sociology
4. Change and Rest
5. Nature and Convention

*Plato's Political Programme*
6. Totalitarian Justice
7. The Principle of Leadership
8. The Philosopher King
9. Aestheticism, Perfectionism, Utopianism

*The Background of Plato’s Attack*
10. The Open Society and its Enemies

**Week X (October 31)**

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*
Lecture Seventeen: An Introduction to Ethology
Lecture Eighteen: Neuroethology


**VIII The Knowledge Argument**
Van Gulick — Understanding the Phenomenal Mind: Are We All Just Armadillos? I
Jackson — What Mary Didn’t Know
Churchland — Knowing Qualia: A Reply to Jackson
Lewis — What Experience Teaches
Loar — Phenomenal States

Popper, Karl. *The Open Society and Its Enemies: 2 — The High Tide of Prophecy: Hegel, Marx, and the Aftermath*

**The Rise of Oracular Philosophy**
11. The Aristotelian Roots of Hegelianism
12. Hegel and the New Tribalism

**Marx’s Method**
13. Sociological Determinism
14. The Autonomy of Sociology
15. Economic Historicism
16. The Classes
17. The Legal and the Social System

**Marx’s Prophecy**
18. The Coming of Socialism
19. The Social Revolution
20. Capitalism and Its Fate
21. An Evaluation

**Marx’s Ethics**
22. The Moral Theory of Historicism

**The Aftermath**
23. The Sociology of Knowledge
24. Oracular Philosophy and the Revolt against Reason

**Conclusion**
25. Has History any Meaning?

1,000-word proposal and bibliography due Friday November 4th at 5:00 p.m.

**Week XI (November 7)**

Robert Sapolsky. *Biology and Human Behavior*
Lecture Nineteen: The Neurobiology of Aggression I
Lecture Twenty: The Neurobiology of Aggression II


**IX Qualia**
Dennett — Quining Qualia
Shoemaker — The Inverted Spectrum
Harman—The Intrinsic Quality of Experience
Güzeldere—Is Consciousness the Perception of What Passes in One’s Own Mind?

Kantorowicz, Ernst. The King’s Two Bodies: A Study in Medieval Political Theology
Preface (1997)
Preface
Introduction
The Problem: Plowden’s Reports
The Shakespeare: King Richard II
Christ-Centered Kingship
Law-Centered Kingship
Polity-Centered Kingship: Corpus Mysticum
On Continuity and Corporations
The King Never Dies
Man-Centered Kingship: Dante
Epilogue

Week XII (November 14)
Robert Sapolsky. Biology and Human Behavior
Lecture Twenty-One: Hormones and Aggression
Lecture Twenty-Two: Early Experience and Aggression

IX Qualia
Block—Inverted Earth
White—Curse of the Qualia

X Higher-Order Monitoring Conceptions of Consciousness
Armstrong—What Is Consciousness?

Kern, Stephen. The Culture of Time and Space: 1880-1918
The Nature of Time
The Past
The Present
The Future
Speed
The Nature of Space
Form
Distance
Direction
Temporality of the July Crisis
The Cubist War
Conclusion

Week XIII (November 21)
Robert Sapolsky. Biology and Human Behavior
Lecture Twenty-Three: Evolution, Aggression, and Cooperation
Lecture Twenty-Four: A Summary

X Higher-Order Monitoring Conceptions of Consciousness—continued
Rosenthal—A Theory of Consciousness
Lycan—Consciousness as Internal Monitoring
Dretske—Conscious Experience
Güzeldere—Is Consciousness the Perception of What Passes in One’s Own Mind?

Jay, Martin. Songs of Experience: Modern American and European Variations on a Universal Theme
Introduction
The Trial of “Experience”: From the Greeks to Montaigne and Bacon
Experience and Epistemology: The Contest Between Empiricism and Idealism
The Appeal of Religious Experience: Schleiermacher, James, Otto, and Buber
Returning to the Body through Aesthetic Experience: From Kant to Dewey
Politics and Experience: Burke, Oakeshott, and the English Marxists
History and Experience: Dilthey, Collingwood, Scott, and Ankersmit
The Cult of Experience in American Pragmatism: James, Dewey, and Rorty
Lamenting the Crisis of Experience: Benjamin and Adorno
The Poststructuralist Reconstitution of Experience: Bataille, Barthes, and Foucault
Conclusion

**Week XIV** (November 28)


X Higher-Order Monitoring Conceptions of Consciousness — continued

Dretske — Conscious Experience
Güzeldere — Is Consciousness the Perception of What Passes in One’s Own Mind?

Taylor, Charles. *Sources of the Self: The Making of the Modern Identity*

*Part I: Identity and the Good*
  Inescapable Frameworks
  The Self in Moral Space
  Ethics of Inarticulacy
  Moral Sources

*Part II: Inwardness*
  Moral Topography
  Plato’s Self-Mastery
  “In Interiore Homine”
  Descartes’s Disengaged Reason
  Locke’s Punctual Self
  Exploring “l’Humaine Condition”
  Inner Nature
  A Digression on Historical Explanation

*Part III: The Affirmation of Ordinary Life*
  “God Loveth Adverbs”
  Rationalized Christianity
  Moral Sentiments
  The Providential Order
  The Culture of Modernity

*Part IV: The Voice of Nature*
  Fractured Horizons
  Radical Enlightenment
  Nature as Source
  The Expressivist Turn

*Part V: Subtler Languages*
  Our Victorian Contemporaries
  Visions of the Post-Romantic Age
  Epiphanies of Modernism
  Conclusion: The Conflicts of Modernity

**Week XV** (December 4)

No class meeting; work on papers.

*Final Papers Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m.*