



ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ОБУЧЕНИЕ – БАИ

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TEMPLATE FOR A SPECIALIZED DOCTORAL COURSE (in English)

Basic Information:

Course Title: **Conceptualizing Symbols and Metaphors from Everyday Life (On Charles Peirce’s philosophy).**

Lecturer: **Prof. Dr. Ivan Mladenov**

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Total Teaching Hours: 30

Annotation

This is a philosophy of the scientific metaphors and, how they extract the disclosed knowledge or, to express the same from the opposite direction: it develops metaphors based on philosophical concepts of Charles Peirce (1839 – 1914) but the purpose is the same. These are either some of his well-known ideas, which are elaborated according to their own implications, or abandoned notions carefully opened and applied to contemporary theories. If we have a clear vision of what we are going to do during the day, this makes us happier. If we can ease the general ordering and hierarchy of our tasks, we might improve our lives. Peirce believed that he had found a clue to do that, we try to explicit this clue of his philosophy.

Course content

Topic / Module 1: Is there any difference between “what we know” and “how we learn”? Does information represent knowledge? Why do we want to know? Theories of knowledge: Pre-Socratic era, Stoics, Ancient theories of knowledge. Scholasticism. British empiricism. “The Road Not Taken”: semiotics vs. philosophy. The demise of the “great systems” in the 19th century and the search for the methods, Descartes, Kant and the German classical idealism (overview).

Topic / Module 2: The “continental semiotics”; its dyadic character and structuralism. The three-category thinking of Charles Peirce and his division of signs. What was innovative in Peirce’s 3 categories in comparison to the philosophers before him? Logic and semiotics.

Topic / Module 3: Conceptualizing as a method of deriving meaning. Pragmatism and concepts. Universals and particulars. The difference between metaphorical and non-metaphorical discourse. Intuition and knowledge. Conceptualizing of the everyday symbols and metaphors – on student’s choice.

Teaching and assessment methods

The course is a combination of discussion and lecture. Discussion is based on primary source readings and written focus questions. Each student is responsible for 5 minutes oral presentation on selected



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items based on the current topic. Grading will be calculated mostly on the basis of attendance and participation. Mid-term paper and final paper are demanded; they should not exceed 5 pages.

Competencies acquired as a result of training

The students who will successfully finish this lecture-course will get an idea how to strengthen their overall abilities of decision-making by becoming competent in the way we think. The chief result of training in pragmatic thinking would be the clarification of thought.

Literature:

Basic Readings: We will generally read the following books, which will be made available to the students:

Brent, Joseph (1993) Charles Sanders Peirce. A Life, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis.

Deely, John, Basics of Semiotics, IU-Press, 1990

Mladenov, Ivan (2006) Conceptualizing Metaphors. On Charles Peirce's Marginalia, Routledge, London & New York, Taylor and Francis Group, 2006, 198pp. ISBN 0-415-36047-1.

Charles S. Peirce's Letters to Lady Welby (1953) Ed. by Irwin C. Lieb, Whitlock's, Inc. New Haven, Connecticut.

Colapietro, Vincent (1989) Peirce's Approach to the Self. A Semiotic Perspective on Human Subjectivity, State University of New York Press, Albany

De Waal, Cornelis, ON PRAGMATISM, Wadsworth Philosophical Topics, 2005.

De Waal, Cornelis, ON PEIRCE, Wadsworth Philosophical Topics, 2001.

Additional information

We need a place and a Ppt-projector