MEETINGS: Fridays 10:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m., Somerville House Seminar Room 2348. Please note that sometimes the class will not meet on certain Fridays, as indicated on the syllabus. Class make-up dates are listed in syllabus.

Instructor: Antonio Calcagno, PhD

Contact Information: Faculty Building, Room 213
519-433-3491 x4533
acalcagn@uwo.ca (EMAIL IS BEST MEANS OF CONTACT)

Office Hours:
Thursdays 9:00–10:30 am and 2:00–3:30 p.m. or by appointment

RATIONALE: Over the past decade or so there has been a growing body of Italian philosophical and theoretical work that has had a considerable impact on thinking and action, not only in Italy but also in Europe. As English translations become available, there is growing interest in this new thought. This course has its primary aim the introduction of the new ideas, thinkers, and texts of emergent Italian theory. This course offers students tools for advancing and critiquing their own projects at the Theory Centre.

DESCRIPTION:

Antonio Negri claimed some 20 years ago that Italian philosophy had lost its way: it had become mired in Italy's rich archival and museum-like collective imagination. He now claims that there is a new wave of Italian philosophy that is more radical and politically subversive. More recently, Roberto Esposito has described the new wave of Italian theory as being profoundly marked by a deep culture of creative resistance and struggle. This course proposes to read recent developments in Italian theory with a focus on both the critique of contemporary society and the creative responses to the crises that inform our world. Students will read works of thinkers like Roberto Esposito, Antonio Negri, Adriana Cavarero, Lea Melandri, Remo Bodei and Franco Bifo Berardi. The course will be arranged around different problems/issues. The thought of various theorists will be studied in conjunction
with the problems touched upon in the course, all with the ultimate aim of showing the possibility of a new constellation of ways of being in the world with others.

**READINGS:** At Bookstore or on course OWL website.

**SYLLABUS:**

**Session I:** 9 September: Introduction

**Session II:** 16 September: **THEME: The Problem of Life:** The New Biopolitics and its Creative Possibilities: Roberto Esposito: *Bios*, read chapters 1, 2 and 5

**Session III:** 23 September: Roberto Esposito: *Communitas*, read Introduction, chapters 1–5

30 September: No class [Read first half of Esposito’s *Immunitas*]

7 October: No class [Read second half of Esposito’s *Immunitas*]

**Session IV:** WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2016 (MAKE-UP): 4 –7 pm, King’s College: Roberto Esposito: *Immunitas* [available in UWO Bookstore], read first half

**Session V:** 14 October: Roberto Esposito: *Immunitas*, read second half

21 October: No class

**Session VI:** WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2016 (MAKE-UP): 4 –7 pm, King’s College:

**THEME: The Problem of Financial Capitalism and its Woes: The New Global Order:**

Paolo Virno’s *A Grammar of the Multitude*

**Session VII:** 28 October: Franco Bifo Berardi’s *The Soul at Work: From Alienation to Autonomy*, read chapters 1, 2, 3 and conclusion

**Session VIII:** 4 November: Massimo Cacciari, *The Unpolitical: On the Radical Critique of Political Reason* (excerpts on OWL)

**Session IX:** 11 November: **THEME: The Crisis of Memory and the Imagination:**

Remo Bodei’s *Logics of Delusion,*
18 November: No class

**Session X:** 25 November: Ugo Perone’s *The Possible Present*, chapter 1–6, and chapter 8

**Session XI:** WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2016 (MAKE-UP): 4 – 7 pm, King’s College:

**THEME: The Problem of Identity After Modernity: Italian Feminism:**

Adriana Cavarero’s *Relating Narratives: Storytelling and Selfhood*, read parts I, II and IV

**Session XII:** 2 December: The Unconscious Male-Female Bifurcation and Patriarchy: Lea Melandri’s *Love and Violence* (excerpts my translation of *Amore e violenza*)

**Session XIII:** 9 December: Carla Lonzi’s “Let’s Spit on Hegel” and Adriana Monti, film: *150 ore*: Discussion with Paola Melchiori and Adriana Monti: Issues in contemporary Italian Feminist Thought

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

1 seminar presentation—20%: To be determined in class
1 short paper on any given text other than seminar choice (5–7pp)—20%: Based on seminar presentation: due week after seminar presentation.
1 final research paper (20–25pp)—50%: Due Wednesday December 20, 2016
Class Participation—10%

Please consult UWO policy on academic offences at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf