

T 500. Tutorial: Are We Done With Difference?

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Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00
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Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12:00, Sun Room

From Nietzsche to Deleuze, the concept of Difference has remained a central preoccupation (and problem) of modern philosophy. This tutorial will selectively survey key 20th century articulations of Difference in light of their critique by Francois Laruelle, a rising figure in contemporary theory whose claims for a radical “non-philosophy” build from, and attempt to overturn, the legacies of phenomenology and post-structuralism. We will read in its entirety his *Philosophies of Difference: A Critical Introduction to Non-Philosophy* (published in France in 1986; translated to English in 2010), with additional readings by Heidegger, Derrida, and Deleuze.

Each participant must purchase a copy of Laruelle’s *Philosophies of Difference*. Other readings will be provided as PDFs.

January 29

Martin Heidegger, “The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking” in *Basic Writings*, trans. David Farrell Krell (New York: HarperCollins, 1977), 373–392.

Gilles Deleuze, “Preface,” in *Difference and Repetition*, trans. Paul Patton (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994), *xix–xxii*.

Francois Laruelle, “Instructions for Use,” in *Philosophies of Difference: A Critical Introduction to Non-Philosophy*, trans. Rocco Gangle (London: Continuum, 2010) *xiii–xxii*.

February 5

Daniel Smith, “The Concept of the Similacrum: Deleuze and the Overturning of Platonism” in *Essays on Deleuze* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012), 3–26.

February 12

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 1: Introduction, 1–21.

February 19

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 2: Syntax of Difference, 22–38.

February 26

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 3: Reality of Difference, 39–57.

March 5

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 3: Reality of Difference, 57– 75.

March 12

Heidegger text TBD

March 19

No class.

March 26

No class.

April 2

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 4: Hegel and Heidegger, 76–103.

April 9

Derrida, “Différance” in *Margins of Philosophy*, trans. Alan Bass (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), 1–28.

Daniel Smith, “Deleuze and Derrida, Immanence and Transcendence: Two Directions in Recent French Thought” in *Essays on Deleuze* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2012), 271–286.

April 16

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 5: Derrida, 104–129.

April 23

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 5 continued, 129–151.

April 30

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 6: Critique of Difference, 152–177.

May 7

Philosophies of Difference, chapter 6 continued 177–195.

May 14

Philosophies of Difference, Chapter 7: Theory of Philosophical Difference, 196 – 223.