

Syllabus

**The Kierkegaard Seminar:**  
Lecture Series at the Kierkegaard Research Centre

Søren Kierkegaard is a multifaceted author who has continued to interest, provoke and intrigue thinkers from a vast range of disciplines. Regarded both as a philosopher, a theologian, and a literary critic and theorist, Kierkegaard created a complex authorship that defies traditional categories and simple interpretations. He was deeply interested in exploring some of the important challenges to Christian life and thinking that he regarded as particularly acute in his own time. Many of these same issues are still with us today, and for this reason his thought remains highly relevant.

This lecture series is designed to give an insight into both Kierkegaard's own life and authorship and some of the most recent trends in the world of Kierkegaard research. It will provide a rare opportunity for students to gain a glimpse of Kierkegaard research at the highest level by introducing them to the different kinds of research programs and activities at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre. The lectures will be given a group of highly qualified scholars with many years of experience in the field of Kierkegaard studies. The lectures will take place at the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, and, as a part of the seminar, participants will be made familiar with the Centre's resources. The lecture series is intended for serious, self-motivated students who are interested in developing their own plan of study in conjunction with the course. Preliminary knowledge of Kierkegaard is recommended, but not required. **(Note: starting date, February 2, 2012.)**

**Series Coordinators:**

**Jon Stewart**

M.A. (Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, 1986), Ph.D. (Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, 1992), Dr. habil. (Theology, University of Copenhagen, 2003), Dr. habil. (Philosophy, University of Copenhagen, 2007). Since 1996 Associate Research Professor, Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, University of Copenhagen.

**Email:** js@sk.ku.dk

**Office Hours**

Tuesday 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, Farvergade 27 D

**K. Brian Soderquist**

Ph.D. (Philosophical theology, University of Copenhagen, 2005), M.A.R. (Philosophy of Religion, Yale University), 1994; B.A. (Philosophy, Natural sciences, Utah State University, 1990). Since 2000 External Lecturer, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen.

**Email:** briansoda@gmail.com

**Office Hours**

Wednesday 12:00-15:00 and by appointment

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## **DIS Contacts**

Jakob Lorentzen, ECH Program Director, jlo@dis.dk

Hope Rehak, ECH Program Assistant, hre@dis.dk

## **Expectations**

The course consists primarily of readings and lectures. Students will be expected to keep up with the readings, some of which are rather difficult, and participate in the discussions. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be required to develop their own paper topics in consultation with the instructor and to present their proposals orally in class. Students will be evaluated based on a final term paper at the end of the semester.

## **Course Requirements and Evaluation**

Ungraded 10-15 minute in-class presentation

Term Paper: The University of Copenhagen requires a paper of 19,200-24,000 characters (= ca. 8-10 pages) including spaces for bachelor's students (DIS students); the requirement is 28,800-36,000 characters (= ca 12-15 pages) including spaces for KU master's students. You must include a character count on the front page of your paper.

## **Plagiarism Policy**

In accordance with DIS's and The Faculty of Theology's rules for academic ethics, there will be a no tolerance policy towards cheating and plagiarism. The submission of any paper which is not your own work will result in an automatic F for the course and possible notification of your home university.

1. Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lecturer: Jon Stewart (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre)

Topic: "Introduction to Kierkegaard's Authorship and the Work of the Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre"

2. Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

Lecturer: David Possen (Yale University)

Topic: "Transparency and Authenticity in Kierkegaard, Part One"

Reading: *Either/Or*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1987, Part 1, pp. 139-176; Part 2, pp. 178-190, pp. 246-266.

3. Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Lecturer: David Possen (Yale University)

Topic: "Transparency and Authenticity in Kierkegaard, Part Two"

Reading: *Upbuilding Discourses in Various Spirits*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1993, pp. 1-121.

4. Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

Lecturer: Walter Wietzke (Fordham University)

Topic: "Kierkegaard and Contemporary Moral Philosophy"

Reading: *Either/Or*, Part 2, "The Balance between the Esthetic and the Ethical in the Development of the Personality," trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Princeton: Princeton University Press 1987, pp. 155-265. Alasdair MacIntyre, excerpt from *After Virtue* (collected in *Kierkegaard after MacIntyre*, Chicago: Open Court, 2001, pp. xxxv-xxxix). Bernard Williams, "Internal Reasons and the Obscurity of Blame," *Making Sense of Humanity*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press 1995, pp. 35-45. Recommended: David Velleman, "Willing the Law," *Self to Self*, New York: Cambridge University Press 2006, pp. 284-311.

5. Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Lecturer: David Possen (Yale University)

Topic: "Kierkegaard's Originality"

Reading: *Without Authority*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1997, pp. 36-45, pp. 93-108.

6. Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> (**Beginning of Consultations about Paper Topics**)

Lecturer: Thomas Gilbert (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre)

Topic: "Framing the *Fragments*: Johannes Climacus and Rhetorical Subversion"

Reading: *Philosophical Fragments*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1985, pp. 1-48. *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1992, pp. 5-18, pp. 361-384, pp. 617-630. *The Point of View*, "On My Work as an Author," trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1998, pp. 1-11.

7. Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Lecturer: Mads Sohl Jessen (Institut for Nordiske Studier og Sprogvidenskab, University of Copenhagen)

Topic: "The Relation between Heiberg and Kierkegaard"

Reading: *Prefaces*, trans. by Todd W. Nichol, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1998, Preface, pp. 1-68.

8. Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> (**Deadline for Consultations about Paper Topics**)

Lecturer: Walter Wietzke (Fordham University)

Topic: "Kierkegaard and Normative Transitions"

Reading: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1992, pp. 93-106. *Either/Or*, Part 2, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1987, pp. 258-260. M. Jamie Ferreira, *Transforming Vision*, New York: Clarendon 1991, pp. 57-84.

9. Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

Lecturer: Thomas Fauth Hansen (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre)

Topic: "The Moment—to Love God in Agonizing Isolation"

Reading: *The Moment and Late Writings*, trans. by Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong, Princeton: Princeton University Press 1998, *The Moment*, No. 5, pp. 175-200 (see also pp. 87-126, pp. 139-354).

10. Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Lecturer: Jon Stewart (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre)

Topic: Student presentations

**May 16 Term Papers Due**

(at noon, at the European Culture & History office at DIS Vestergade 10B, Office 13)

