

Winter, Term 2, 2018-19

Philosophy 762 – Topics in Metaphysics

Philosophy of Mind in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Dr. Sandra Lapointe

The nineteenth century was a pivotal period in the history of philosophy of mind. It witnessed the emergence of doctrines and disciplinary boundaries that shape philosophical debate in fundamental ways and challenged many prevailing assumptions, e.g. about the transparency of the mind, particularly in the ideas of Nietzsche and Freud, whilst at the same time witnessing the birth of modern psychology in the work of William James. The first part of the seminar will be dedicated to investigating and understanding the main topics, authors, and debates, including German idealism, early physiological theories of perception, psychoanalysis, pragmatics, phenomenology and neo-Kantianism. In the second part of the seminar, students will leverage this newly acquired understanding to explore and contribute to the documentation of the broader context, for instance: Mill, Wundt, James, Bradley, Lotze, Frege, Maudsley, Stout, Ward, Bradley, Schopenhauer and Kierkegaard.

In addition to primary readings, where available in English, the seminar will be based on individual chapters of Dr Lapointe's last book, *Philosophy of Mind in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* (Routledge 2018). All readings will be made available at no cost in PDF format.

The grade will be determined on the basis of a presentation, a short encyclopaedia entry-style paper and a final essay. In order to succeed in the course, students will have to produce all three, but there will be some flexibility as to the weight of each, to be determined in discussion with each student individually.

