

Women Philosophers in the German Tradition



Lou Andreas-Salomé



Edith Stein



Hannah Arendt

**Department of Philosophy
Johns Hopkins University
Course #: AS.150.472
Spring 2024**

Course Description

This course examines the works, influence, and legacy of often understudied and overlooked women philosophers in the German tradition in the 19th and 20th centuries. Even though largely deprived formal education and academic positions and excluded from academic discourse, women thinkers developed their own ways of philosophizing, engaging in dialogue with their contemporaries, and shaping the philosophical movements of their time. The course focuses in particular on Lou Andreas-Salomé (1861-1937) and her engagement with the philosophy of life movement and with psychoanalysis, Edith Stein (1891-1942) and her impact on the phenomenological tradition, and Hannah Arendt (1906–1975) and her lasting contribution to existential questions about human intellectual, social, and political life. The underlying theme of the course, connecting these three thinkers, is the life of the mind: what can we learn from each thinker about the conditions of human life, the dynamics of personal development, and the potential for emancipation?

Time: Th 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Place: Greenhouse 110

Instructor: Professor Katharina Kraus

Schedule*

* This is a tentative schedule; modifications are at the discretion of the professor.

Week 1 (Jan. 25): Introduction to the topic of the seminar, the selection of readings, and the assignments

- Editor's Introduction, *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteenth Century. The German Tradition [WPGT]*, pp. 1-22

I. Lou Andreas-Salomé (1861–1937)

Week 2 (Feb. 1): Salomé on Life and Religion

- Salomé, *Der Gott*, Excerpts from the chapters 'Erleben' and 'Mitleben' (in German; translation of selected passages will be provided)
- Kraus, "Lou Salomé (1861–1937)", in *Handbook*, pp. 195-219
- Background:
 - Introduction to Salomé, *WPGT*, pp. 177-183
 - Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, §§1-3, §§ 269-289

Week 3 (Feb. 8): Salomé on Erotic and Gender

- Salomé, *The Erotic*, Excerpts from *WPGT*, pp. 184-205
- Salomé, *Ma*, Excerpts, translated by Madeleine Schmitz
- Background:
 - Rilke/Salomé, *Love Letters*, Excerpts
 - Hedwig Dohm, Excerpts from *WPGT*, pp. 122-153 (esp. Introduction, 'Nietzsche and Women', 'On the Agitators of Anti-feminism')
 - Lou Andreas-Salomé, "The Human Being as a Women"

Week 4 (Feb. 15): Salomé on the Philosophical Foundations of Psychoanalysis

- Salomé, "The Dual Orientation of Narcissism", *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly* 31:1, 1-30
- Background:
 - Salomé, *Freud Journal*, Excerpts
 - Freud, *On Narcissism*, Sec. I
 - Kraus, "Salomé on Life, Religion, Self-Development, and Psychoanalysis: The Spinozistic Background"

II. Edith Stein (1891–1942)

Week 5 (Feb. 22): Stein on Empathy: Consciousness (Online or postpone)

- Stein, *On Empathy*, Ch. II.2 (pp. 6-10) and Ch. III.1-4 (pp. 38-56)
- Introduction to Stein, *WPGT*, pp. 241-247

- Background:
 - MacIntyre, *Edith Stein*, Ch. 7-12, pp. 63-108

Week 6 (Feb. 29): Stein on Empathy: The Body and the Constitution of the Individual

- Stein, *On Empathy*, Ch. III.5 (a-p) (pp. 56-88), focus on (a-d), (g), (k), (n), (p)
- Background:
 - Husserl, *Cartesian Meditation V*, §§42-45 (pp. 89-100)

Week 7 (Mar. 7): Stein on the Human Person and Spirit (Geist)

- Stein, *On Empathy*, Ch. IV.1-8 (pp. 91-117)
- Background:
 - Conrad-Martius, *Metaphysical Conversations*, 'The Soul' (pp. 53-80); 'Demons and Angels, Spirit and Spirits' (pp. 94-120)
 - Dilthey, "Drafts for a Critique of Historical Reason," Part I ("Lived Experience, Expression, and Understanding": 2. "Understanding of Others and their Manifestations of Life")

Week 8 (Mar. 14): Stein on the Intellectual Life: Causation and Motivation

- Stein, *Philosophical Foundations of Psychology and the Humanities*, Part I ('Sentient Causality'): Ch. I.1-4 (pp. 9-21), Ch. II.1 (pp. 21-26), Ch. 3.1 (pp. 39-47), Ch. V.1-5 (pp. 74-115)
- Stein, *Philosophical Foundations of Psychology and the Humanities*, Part II ('Individual and Community'): Ch. II.1-2 (pp. 196-222)
- Background:
 - Conrad-Martius, *Metaphysical Conversations*, 'The Soul' (pp. 53-80); 'Demons and Angels, Spirit and Spirits' (pp. 94-120)
 - Dilthey, *The Formation of the Historical World in the Human Sciences*: Selection from Part II ("The Structure of the Human Sciences", "The Life and the Human Sciences")

Spring Break (Mar. 21)

III. Hannah Arendt (1906–1975)

Dr. Martin Baesler (Freiburg), a scholar of Arendt and Kant, specialized in political philosophy, will join us for the session on March 28. Topics and readings may change.

Week 9 (Mar. 28): Arendt on Thinking, and the Vita Contemplativa

- Arendt, *The Life of the Mind: Part I (Thinking)*, Ch. I.7-8 (pp. 45-65), Ch. II.9-11 (pp. 69-98)
- Background:
 - Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Excerpts

Week 10 (Apr. 4): cancelled due to conference at Notre Dame

Week 11 (Apr. 11): Arendt on Willing, and the Vita Activa

- Arendt, *The Life of the Mind: Part II (Willing)*, Ch. I.1-5 (pp. 11-39), Ch. II.10 (pp. 84-110)
- Background:
 - Arendt, *The Human Condition*, Excerpts
 - Augustine, "On Free Choice of the Will", Excerpts

Week 12 (Apr. 18): Arendt on Judging and Being-in-the-World

- Arendt, *On Kant's Political Philosophy (Judging)*, Excerpts
- Background:
 - Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, Excerpts
 - Beiner, 'Hannah Arendt on Judging', Excerpts

IV. Women Philosophers in the German Tradition

Week 13 (Apr. 25): Wrap-Up: A Way Forward?

- Readings to be assigned
- Alternatively: Movie on Arendt or Salomé

Literature:

Primary Texts:

* *Text Selections will be provided on Canvas from the following primary sources:*

- *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteenth Century. The German Tradition.* Edited by Dalia Nassar and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021. [**WPGT**]

Lou Andreas-Salomé

- Salomé, Lou. "Der Mensch als Weib" ("The Human Being as Woman"), 1899, in H. R. Schwab (ed.), *Aufsätze und Essays*, Vol. 2. Taching am See: MedienEdition Welsch, 2010. (Translation by Christina Yegene Chun, Senior Thesis, Princeton)
- Salomé, Lou. *Der Gott*, 1910, in H. R. Schwab (ed.), *Aufsätze und Essays*, Vol. 5. Taching am See: MedienEdition Welsch, 2016.
- Salomé, Lou. *Die Erotik (The Erotic)*. Frankfurt am Main: Literarische Anstalt Rütten & Loennig, 1910. For an English translation (in excerpts), see "Lou Salomé (1861–1937)," in D. Nassar and K. Gjesdal (eds.), *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteenth Century, 177–205*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Salomé, Lou. *Looking Back: Memoirs. The Intimate Story of her Friendship with Nietzsche, Rilke, and Freud*, ed. Ernst Pfeiffer, trans. Breon Mitchell. New York: Marlowe, 1995. [*Lebensrückblick*. Grundriß einiger Lebenserinnerungen, ed. E. Pfeiffer. Zurich/Wiesbaden: Niehans & Insel, 1951.]
- Salomé, Lou. *The Freud Journal of Lou Andreas-Salomé*, trans. S. A. Leavy. New York: Basic Books, 1964. [*In der Schule bei Freud. Tagebuch eines Jahres 1912/13*, in M.

Klemann (ed.), *Werke und Briefe von Lou Andreas Salomé in Einzelbänden*, Vol. 14. Taching am See: MedienEdition Welsch, 2017]

Edith Stein

- Edith Stein. *On the Problem of Empathy. The Collected Works of Edith Stein. Vol. III.* Transl. by Waltraut Stein. Washington DC: ICS Publications, 1989. [Zum Problem der Einfühlung, 1917]
- Edith Stein. *Philosophy of Psychology and the Humanities. The Collected Works of Edith Stein. Vol. VII.* Transl. by Mary Catherine Baseheart and Marianne Sawicki. Washington DC: ICS Publications, 2000. [“Beiträge zur philosophischen Begründung der Psychologie und der Geisteswissenschaften”, *Jahrbuch für Philosophie und phänomenologische Forschung* 5, 1922, 1-282]
- Edith Stein. *Finite and Eternal Being. The Collected Works of Edith Stein. Vol. IX.* Transl. by Kurt F. Reinhardt. Washington DC: ICS Publications, 2002. [Endliches und Ewiges Sein. Versuch eines Aufstiegs zum Sinn des Seins, 1950]

Hannah Arendt

- Arendt, Hannah. *The Human Condition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1958.
- Arendt, Hannah. *The Life of the Mind*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978.
- Arendt, Hannah. *Responsibility and Judgment*. Edited and with an introduction by Jerome Kohn. New York: Schocken Books, 2003.
- Arendt, Hannah. *Lectures on Kant’s Political Philosophy*. Edited and with an interpretive essay by Ronald Beiner. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

Other philosophers:

- Augustine, “On Free Choice of the Will” (*De libero arbitrio*). Transl. by L. H. Hackstaff and Anna S. Benjamin. New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1964.
- Conrad-Martius, Hedwig, *Metaphysical Conversations and Phenomenological Essays*. Edited, Translated, and with an Introduction by Christina M. Gschwandtner Berlin: DeGruyter, 2024.
- Dilthey, Wilhelm. *Introduction to the Human Sciences, Selected Works [SW]*. Vol. I, ed. R. A. Makkreel and F. Rodi. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 47–242. [Einführung in die Geisteswissenschaften, 1883]
- Dilthey, Wilhelm. *Selected Works [SW]*. Vol. III *The Formation of the Historical World in the Human Sciences*. Edited by R.A. Makkreel and F. Rodi, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2002. [Der Aufbau der geschichtlichen Welt in den Geisteswissenschaften, 1910]
- Dohm, Hedwig. Excerpts in *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteenth Century. The German Tradition*. Edited by Dalia Nassar and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021, pp. 122-153 (esp. Introduction, ‘Nietzsche and Women’, ‘On the Agitators of Anti-feminism’)
- Freud, Sigmund (1914). “On Narcissism: An Introduction,” in J. Strachey (ed.), in collaboration with A. Freud, assisted by A. Strachey, A. Tyson, and A. Richards, *The*

Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud. London: Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psychoanalysis (1953–74), 1920.

- Husserl, Edmund. *Cartesian Meditations. An Introduction to Phenomenology* (1931). Translated by Dorion Cairns. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Pub., 1977. [Cartesianische Meditationen, 1931]
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/87). Ed. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (1790). Ed. and transl. Paul Guyer (and Eric Matthews). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich, *The Gay Science*, Texts in the History of Philosophy, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012
- Rilke, Rainer Maria and Andreas-Salomé, Lou. *A Love Story in Letters*. Trans. Edward Snow and Michael Winkler. New York: W.W. Norton, 2008.
- Weil, Simone. *Gravity and Grace*. Transl. by Arthur Wills Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press/Bison Books Edition, 1997. [*La Pensateur et la grâce*, 1947]

Secondary Literature:

Biographical Studies:

- Hill, Samantha Rose. *Hannah Arendt*. Chicago: Chicago University Press/Reaktion Books, 2021.
- MacIntyre, Alasdair. *Edith Stein. A Philosophical Prologue 1913-1922*, London: Continuum, 2000.
- Welsch, U., and Wiesner, M. (1988). *Lou Andreas-Salomé: Vom "Lebensurgrund" zur Psychoanalyse*. Berlin: Verlag Internationale Psychoanalyse.
- Wieder, C. (2011). *Die Psychoanalytikerin Lou Andreas-Salomé. Ihr Werk im Spannungsfeld zwischen Sigmund Freud und Rainer Maria Rilke*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Philosophical Analysis:

- *The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century Women Philosophers in the German Tradition*. Edited by Dalia Nassar and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024 (still forthcoming!) [**Handbook**]
- *The Oxford Handbook of German Philosophy in the Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Michael N. Forster and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Bidy, M. (1991). *Woman and Modernity. The (Life) Styles of Lou Andreas-Salomé*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Benhabib, Seyla. *The Reluctant Modernism of Hannah Arendt*. London: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2003
- Borden, Sarah. *Edith Stein*. London: Continuum, 2003.
- Brinker-Gabler, G. (2012). *Image in Outline: Reading Lou Andreas-Salomé*. New York: Continuum.

- Kraus, Katharina, “Lou Salomé (1861–1937)”. In: *The Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century Women Philosophers in the German Tradition*. Edited by Dalia Nassar and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024
- Kraus, Katharina, “Salomé on Life, Religion, Self-Development, and Psychoanalysis: The Spinozistic Background”. In *Spinoza in Germany: Political and Religious Thought across the Long Nineteenth Century*, edited by Jason M. Yonover and Kristin Gjesdal. Oxford: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).
- McGowan, John. *Hannah Arendt: An Introduction*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998.
- Reginster, Bernard, *The Affirmation of Life: Nietzsche on Overcoming Nihilism*. Cambridge (MA): Harvard University Press, 2006.
- Szanto, Thomas and Dermot Moran (eds.). *Empathy and Collective Intentionality. The Social Philosophy of Edith Stein*, Special Issue: *Human Studies*, 38(4), 2015.
- Villa, Dana. *Cambridge Companion to Hannah Arendt*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Online Resources on Women Philosophers:

- 19th Century Women Philosophers: <https://womenphilosophers.net>
- Extending New Narratives: <https://www.newnarrativesinphilosophy.net/index.html>
- Centre for History of Women Philosophers and Scientists: <https://historyofwomenphilosophers.org>
- Project Vox: <https://projectvox.org>
- Sydney Intellectual History Network: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/arts/our-research/centres-institutes-and-groups/intellectual-history.html>