

Dear students of the module “Cultural Philosophy”,

Take a look at the printed study material “Cultural philosophy” by Hubertus Busche to get involved in the topic of Cultural Philosophy. In this course material (2nd part) you will also find an account of selected cultural philosophers.

However, only philosophical primary literature can be considered for a topic for a paper. You will find topics for written papers in the document “Topics for student’s papers in module “Cultural Philosophy””.

The paper should be about 15 pages (font "Times New Roman" or "Garamond", font size 12, one and a half line spacing, syllable separation, block set, correction columns left and right 2.5cm)

The aim of your paper should first be to reproduce the content of the writings, but in a way in which the author's argument becomes clear. Do not simply rehearse thesis after thesis, what the author says, but explain the content in your own words. It is about the clear presentation of the theses of a philosopher and reconstruction of his / her arguments in your words. And this often requires a greater intellectual effort! Use examples to illustrate abstract thoughts. Also make sure that you do not fall into the style of language of the primary text. You are supposed to analyze the content of the primary text, not reproduce its style.

It is very important that you reflect the arguments and justifications that the author mentions for his theses and positions. These justifications are sometimes hidden in philosophical texts and require a thoughtful reconstruction. But it is precisely this reconstruction of philosophical arguments that Philosophy professors want to see in student’s papers. Give proof of the authors' theses and arguments in the original text by using citations (but sparingly) and bibliographic references.

You should demonstrate that you have understood the texts. You should not only have understood what the text is about and precisely list the author's theses, but also, and above all, how the author arrives at his theses, how he argues for them, state the reasons for his theses.

Make sure that your homework follows the thread, to state the essential theses and arguments of the primary text. ("What are the consequences of the technological age on the human soul, which Gehlen diagnosed in his writing?" Or "How does Windelband determine the difference between natural sciences and the humanities?" Or "What are the disadvantages of history for Nietzsche?" Or "Why and in what way is man alienated in Marx?") Such questions are subdivided into sub-questions and along these questions you should work through the text and reproduce it in your own words. Imagine you would tell an intelligent layman what an author writes in his text.

Make sure that everything you write is useful to explain or criticize or defend the goal of reproducing the theses and arguments of the primary text in order to avoid irrelevant digressions. Try to make the position of the author as strong and plausible as possible (without deviating too much from the text). Provide central statements on the text with references! (It is also permissible to state your own thoughts on the work by making objections, defenses, assessments, but then justify your position by giving arguments!)

Use secondary literature to better understand the primary texts. (Literature can be obtained also from the Universitätsbibliothek Hagen.) The paper should not simply repeat the second-

ary literature. Cite secondary literature in a complementary way. Please do not give any information about the life and work of the authors.

Here is a tip for your procedure: It may be helpful to work through the philosophical texts by making excerpts, in which you write down the essential content and arguments and try to reproduce it in your own words. This represents a real, genuine understanding. Always keep an eye on the headings and subtitles in the texts, in order to identify what the author is talking about.

The clock for the work time for the paper will start ticking when you and the module supervisor have agreed on a topic and you have sent him an exposé of the paper.

In the exposé (one page written text), you should formulate and explain the concrete task / question of your paper. Explain the (provisional) argument for answering this question / question. In the exposé, give an overview of the (provisional) structure and the content of your paper. After you have presented the topic and the program of the paperwork, you should specify what you will discuss in the sub-chapters of your work. Ensure that each section is committed to the overall goal of the paper. Also, please add a (provisional) outline of contents and a provisional literature list. If possible, use "speaking" headings for chapters and sub-chapters (E.g. not "culture" or "language," but use sentences: "What does Simmel mean by 'cultivation'?" or "What is Nietzsche's criticism?" or "The concept of art changes in the age of its technical reproducibility"). State your name and enrollment number (from FernUniversität in Hagen) at the top of the exposé, as well as the (provisional) title of the work.

After completion of the paper, please send it to the module supervisor (gunnar.schumann@fernuni-hagen.de) in Word or PDF format.