

**Title and Code of Course: The burnout society. Its critic, and an alternative based on idealist and romantic tradition.**

ERPB-BSB 9525

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Credit Point Value:  <b>6</b>	Number of Lessons per Week:  <b>2</b>	Type of Course: <b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: <b>Oral Examination</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
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**Course Description:**

The course offers an overall picture on the one hand of one of the “golden ages” of European culture, that of German philosophy and literature at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century represented by philosophers like Kant, Fichte, Schelling and Hegel and authors like Goethe, Hölderlin and Novalis, and on the other hand of the actual critical philosophical reflection on the crisis of postmodern society represented first of all by the Korean-Swiss philosopher Byung-Chul-Han whose positive ideas about a possible alternative to the actual crisis are in contact with some authors of belles-lettres like Simon Strauss who sometimes are characterized as representatives of new romantic.

**Bibliography:**

Byung-Chul Han: The burnout society, Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 2015 (original German: Müdigkeitsgesellschaft, 2010). (This was first of those books of the author that made him one of the world-wide best known philosophers in the last ten years.)

Byung-Chul Han: The Agony of Eros, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2017 (Original German: Agonie des Eros, Berlin 2012)

Simon Strauss: Seven nights. Rare Bird, Los Angeles, California, 2019 (original German: Sieben Nächte, Berlin, 2017), This book by the 28 years old author – now literary editor of Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, the most prestigious daily in Germany) is considered to be the No.1 representative novel of the so called “new romanticism”, that mirrors in more than one respects the philosophical ideas of Byung-Chul-Han

Some key texts of the philosophers and authors mentioned will also be selected taking into consideration the background and interest of the individual students.