

PHI 510, Fall 2019

We will make a close study of Schopenhauer's magnum opus, *The World as Will and Representation*. Topics will include the Kantian background of Schopenhauer's transcendental idealism; Schopenhauer's account of the role of the Principle of Sufficient Reason in the construction of the phenomenal world; the mediating function of the body in perception; the doctrine of the 'thing in itself' as will; the theory of Platonic ideas; the account of aesthetic experience and the arts. We will also examine Schopenhauer's pessimism and central practical teachings, paying special attention to the metaphysics of the person. Professor Sandra Shapshay (Hunter College) will join us on November 8th to lead a discussion of Schopenhauer's aesthetics.