

May 14. Tuesday (006) 9:00 AM
Class: Central European Cultures
Professor: Nikola Petković

Professor Costica Bradatan Guest lecturer

Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor of Humanities
The Honors College, Texas Tech University
Editor (Religion & Philosophy), *Los Angeles Review of Books*

E.M. CIORAN: The Philosopher of Failure

The Philosopher of Failure

(Abstract by C.B.)

In this lecture I will consider the case of E. M. Cioran (1911-1995) from the vantagepoint of his relationship to failure. I will do so from two angles. There is, first, Cioran's philosophizing on failure. He was obsessed with the topic throughout his work: from his first book, which he wrote in Romanian when he was 22, to his latest French texts, failure (be it cosmic, collective or personal) always played a central role. There is, then, Cioran's record of personal failures: his involvement with a fascist movement in interwar Romania, his failure to keep a full-time job (and his bragging about it), his dream to live a parasite's life in Paris (and the fulfilment of it), his social marginality, of which he was so proud. What complicates matters is that none of this prevented him from becoming one of the most successful thinkers of the 20th century.

For more, at your convenience, consult the following link:

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/philosopher-failure-emil-ciorans-heights-despair/>

Note: While primarily organized for students in both professor Petković's classes (*Central European Cultures*, and *From Utopia to Dystopia*) the lecture is opened to everyone interested in philosophizing the Entrepreneurship of Failure and other goal-oriented niches of Philosophy in the mirror of contemporary regional practice of globalizing the origins of Thought.

All others are invited too, regardless of their either general or particular interests.

University of Rijeka
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Philosophy
Cultural Theory and Discourse Studies Program in the Department of Cultural Studies

Cordially invites you to attend a public lecture:

Professor Costica Bradatan

Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor of Humanities
The Honors College, Texas Tech University
Editor (Religion & Philosophy), *Los Angeles Review of Books*

HOW TO BE A PROPER CYNIC

May 15. Wednesday, (Room 006)
13:00-15:00

Talk is moderated by Professor **Nikola Petković**
(Head of Cultural Theory and Discourse Studies Program in the Department of Cultural Studies)

How to be Proper Cynic

(Abstract by C.B.)

Where for us it means chiefly moral insensitivity or lack of scruples, for those who invented and practiced it in ancient Greece, Cynicism was all about pursuing a higher form of morality: about the courage to be oneself and to lead an authentic life, preserving one's integrity, while disregarding artificial conventions, received opinion, and groupthink. If anything, we need more Cynics and less cynics today. Using the golden standard set by Diogenes the Cynic, in this lecture I will articulate a critique of today's institutionalized philosophy – and the philosophically-minded humanities – as crippled by conformity and doctrinal ossification, and by a compulsion to stick to disciplinary orthodoxies. While thinkers do share vocabularies, methodologies, and thematic repertoires, and need to engage in dialogue, too much gregariousness can be their undoing because it blunts their instruments.

- *Professor Bradatan's visit is a part of University of Rijeka Internationalization Program; he too is a guest of Cultural Theory and Discourse Studies Program in the Department of Cultural Studies and The Department of Philosophy, University of Rijeka; College of Humanities and Social Sciences*
- *His books are widely translated and two of them are available in Croatian translation*

Umrijeti za ideje: Filozofija kao opasan poziv (Zagreb: TIM Press, 2020; prev. Dijana Bahtijari, Hrvoje Gračanin)

U slavu neuspjeha: Četiri lekcije iz poniznosti Zagreb: TIM Press, (2023; prev. Dijana Bahtijari, Hrvoje Gračanin))

NOTE: Costica Bradatan will be signing his books in *Ex Libris Used Bookstore* (*Antikvarijat, Ex Libris*)

*Presentation and book signing will be moderated by **Nikola Petković***

Thursday, May 16th 19:00 until late