

PHIL 3080*01: History of Modern European Philosophy from Kant

Fall 2015

Instructor: Thom Campbell

Contact: tcampb07@uoguelph.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:00, Office location TBA

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00-5:20, MacKinnon 227

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of major themes and developments in European philosophy from the late 18th to the late 19th century. Our main focus will be on German Idealism from its early formulation in Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/1787) to its culmination in Hegel. After studying selections from Kant's *CPR*, nearly half of our class time will be dedicated to studying Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807), an immensely important text for understanding subsequent developments in European philosophy. We will conclude the term by considering how Marx and Nietzsche each respond to the Idealists, as well as contribute their own original thoughts to the history of European philosophy.

Required Texts:

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* [on CourseLink]

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Oxford)

Marx, *Selected Writings* (Hackett)

Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols* and *Anti-Christ* (Penguin)

All required texts are available at the University Bookstore except the excerpts we are reading from Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* which are posted on CourseLink.

Assignments

In addition to doing the assigned readings and regularly attending and participating in class, you are required to complete the following assignments.

Reading Assignments (8x5%) = 40%

You are required to complete 8 of 10 assigned Reading Assignments (RA). It is your responsibility to ensure that you do so before the end of the term. You will be assigned a question based on the reading and must limit your written answer to 500 words. Reading assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the class on the day of the assigned reading. Note that as the course texts are quite difficult, you should expect to spend about 4-5 hours working on each of these assignments.

In-Class Midterm (October 26) 30%

You will be required to write two short essays responding to assigned questions on Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. The two questions will be selected from a set of approximately six questions that you will be given in advance.

Take Home Final Exam (December 14) 30%

You will be required to write two short essays in response to one question each on Marx and Nietzsche. I will distribute the questions in-class and you will have two weeks to complete and submit the take-home exam.

Schedule

Make sure that you do the assigned readings *before* class meetings and come to class prepared to discuss. Bring your text to class. Reading assignment [RA] due dates are listed below.

Monday, Sept 14 – Introduction

Kant – *Critique of Pure Reason*

Wednesday, Sept 16 – “Preface (A),” pp. 99-105

Monday, Sept 21 – “Preface (B),” pp. 106-124 [RA]

Wednesday, Sept 23 – “Introduction (A/B),” pp. 127-152

Monday, Sept 28 – “Introduction (A/B),” pp. 127-152 [RA]

Hegel – *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Wednesday, Sept 30 – “Introduction,” M73-89

Monday, Oct 5 – “Sense Certainty,” M90-110 [RA]

Wednesday, Oct 7 – “Perception,” M111-131

Monday, Oct 12 – **NO CLASS (HOLIDAY)**

Wednesday, Oct 14 – “Independence and Dependence of Self-Consciousness” I, M178-88 [RA]

Monday, Oct 19 – “Independence and Dependence of Self-Consciousness” II, M189-196

Wednesday, Oct 21 – “Freedom of Self Consciousness,” M197-230 [RA]

Monday, Oct 26 – MIDTERM (IN CLASS)

Wednesday, Oct 28 – “Ethicality” I, M446-463

Monday, Nov 2 – “Ethicality” II, M464-483[RA]

Wednesday, Nov 4 – “Absolute Freedom and Terror,” M582-95; (Strongly) Suggested: M488-91

Marx – *Dialectical Materialism & Communism*

Monday, Nov 9 – *Communist Manifesto* (Pt. I), pp. 158-169 [RA]

Wednesday, Nov 11 – “Alienated Labour,” pp. 58-68

Monday, Nov 16 – *German Ideology*, pp. 105-112; 115-121 [RA]

Wednesday, Nov 18 – *Capital*, Vol. 1, pp. 230-243; (Strongly) Suggested: pp. 255-264

Nietzsche - *Critique of Philosophy*

Monday, Nov 23 – *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 31-51 [RA]

Wednesday, Nov 25 – *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 52-77

Monday, Nov 30 – *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 78-93 [RA]

Wednesday, Dec 2 – *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 93-122

Friday, Dec 4 – Review and Final Exam Q/A session [Make-up class for Monday, Oct 12]

Take-Home Final Exam due Monday, Dec 14 by 4:00PM

8 Standard Statements of the College of Arts

Fall 2015

E-mail Communication

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their **uoguelph.ca** e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester **Fall 2015** courses, without academic penalty, is **November 6, 2015**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counseling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>