PHIL 3080: History of Modern European Philosophy from Kant

Fall 2014
T, TH 4:00 - 5:20 PM
MacKinnon 224

Instructor: Brent Ables
Contact: bables@uoguelph.ca
Office: MacKinnon 326
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description: The goal of this course is to give students an overview of the major developments in European philosophy from the late 18th century to the late 19th century. Because this was an especially fertile period for Western thought, the focus of the course will necessarily be selective and many important figures will be neglected. Nevertheless, students should expect to come away with an understanding of late modern philosophy that will be essential for understanding later intellectual developments, especially those in the tradition that is now called continental philosophy. Although the influence of some of these thinkers (particularly Marx and Nietzsche) would extend beyond philosophy into literature, psychoanalysis, sociology, and politics, we will focus on the conceptual foundations of their theories rather than their diverse applications.

The course will be divided roughly into two halves. In the first half, we will focus on the movement called German Idealism from its inception in Kant's revolutionary *Critique of Pure Reason* to its culmination in Hegel. Priority will be given to Kant as the thinker who, more than any other in the modern era, would determine the subsequent evolution of western philosophy. In the second half of the course, we will look at how Marx, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche each responded to the Idealists and made their own unique contributions to European thought. Reading these philosophers can be difficult at times, but patient students will find they are also among the most rewarding in all of western philosophy.

Required Texts:

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason.* Trans. Paul Guyer and Allen Wood. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Hegel, G.W.F. *The Encyclopedia Logic.* Trans. T.F. Geraets, H.S. Harris, and W.A. Suchting. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 1991.

Marx, Karl. *The Essential Writings of Karl Marx.* Ed. David McLellan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Schopenhauer, Arthur. *The World as Will and Idea.* Trans. Jill Berman. Great Britain: Everyman, 1995.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Basic Writings of Nietzsche.* Ed. Walter Kaufmann. New York: Modern Library, 2000.

- All required texts are available at the University bookstore.

Grading scheme:

Midterm: 30%
First essay: 25%
Final essay: 35%
Participation: 10%
Reading Summaries (Optional): Up to 10%

Assignments: There will be three major assignments for the course: a midterm that will be given in class and two essays that will be assigned as homework. The midterm will be exclusively on material from Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason,* the book which will occupy us for the first third of the class. The first essay is expected to be around 5 pages, and will deal with themes in Kant and Hegel. The final essay will be 8-10 pages and will deal with Marx, Schopenhauer, and/or Nietzsche. Specific essay topics and guidelines will be handed out in class in due time. Students will also receive marks for participation. There is no final exam.

In addition to the main assignments, students will also have the opportunity to complete up to 10 optional reading summaries that will each add 1% to the student's final mark. These will be 1-2 pages, and can be either summaries or critical evaluations of any of the assigned readings. The only requirement is evidence of close engagement with the material, and the instructor reserves the right to withhold credit if this engagement is not apparent. Students will not be penalized if they choose not to do any reading summaries.

-- Schedule of Topics and Readings --

Thursday, Sep. 4: Introduction

Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason

Tuesday, Sep. 9: The Limits of Reason

Preface (A): pp. 99 - 105
Preface (B): pp. 106 - 124

Thursday, Sep. 11: Synthetic *A Priori* Judgments

Introduction (B): pp. 136 - 152

Tuesday, Sep. 16: Space and Time

Transcendental Aesthetic (B): pp. 172 - 192

Thursday, Sep 18: The Table of Categories

Transcendental Logic: pp. 193 - 214

Tuesday, Sep. 23: The Transcendental Deduction

Principles of the Deduction: pp. 219 - 226
Transcendental Deduction: (B): pp. 245 - 266

Thursday, Sep. 25: Phenomena and Noumena

Refutation of Idealism: pp. 326 - 333
Analytic of Principles (B): pp. 354 – 365

Tuesday, Sep. 30: Introduction to Dialectic

Transcendental Dialectic: pp. 384 - 408

Thursday, Oct. 2: Midterm

Hegel's Logic

Tuesday, Oct. 7: How Must Philosophy Begin?

Introduction: pp. 24 - 42

Thursday, Oct. 9: The Science of Pure Thought

Preliminary Conception: pp. 45 - 65

Thursday, Oct. 16: Kant Revisited

Preliminary Conception: pp. 65 - 87

Tuesday, Oct. 21: Hegel's Critique of Kant

Preliminary Conception: pp. 87 - 108

Thursday, Oct. 23: Advanced Dialectic

Preliminary Conception: pp. 125 - 134

Marx: Materialism and Communism

Tuesday, Oct. 28: First essay due

Tuesday, Oct. 28: Marx's Critique of Hegel

Essential Writings of Karl Marx: pp. 457 - 458, 150 - 153, 32 - 33, 104 - 118

Thursday, Oct. 30: The Communist Manifesto

Essential Writings: pp. 171 - 173, 245 - 271

Tuesday, Nov. 4: Philosophical Economics

Essential Writings: pp. 424 - 427, 458 - 492

Schopenhauer: The World as Will and Idea

Thursday, Nov. 6: The World as Idea

Book One: pp. 3 - 24

Tuesday, Nov. 11: The World as Will, Part One

Book Two: pp. 27 – 61

Thursday, Nov. 13: The World as Will, Part Two

Book Two: pp. 61 - 94

Nietzsche's Critique of Philosophy

Tuesday, Nov. 18: The Metaphysics of Music (Schopenhauer & Nietzsche)

The World as Will and Idea: pp. 162 - 172
Basic Writings of Nietzsche: pp. 31 - 56

Thursday, Nov. 20: The Prejudices of Philosophers

Basic Writings: pp. 192 - 222

Tuesday, Nov. 25: The Illusions of Philosophers

Twilight of the Idols: pp. 16 - 20 (handout)
"On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense" (handout)

Thursday, Nov. 27: Perspectivism & Will to Power

Basic Writings: pp. 460 - 492, 512 - 517, 554 - 555