

**University of Guelph
Department of Philosophy**

**PHIL 4340/6000
Advanced Ethics/Value Theory: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right***

Prof. Karen Wendling

Winter 2014

Tu 11:30-2:20, MACK 314

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Anglo-American philosophy has just begun to recognize the importance of society in our philosophizing (e.g., the social turn in epistemology, Rawls' focus on institutions, Kuhn and social studies of science). But Hegel was already criticizing the atomistic individual and its model of society in the early 19th century. In this course, we will work through his *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, which covers ethics, social philosophy, political philosophy, philosophy of law, and international relations. To give us a common background, we will begin with two short books on Hegel by Singer and Taylor.

Required Texts

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, trans. HB Nisbet (Cambridge, 1991)

Singer, *Hegel: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 1983)

Taylor, *Hegel and Modern Society* (Cambridge, 1979)

Course Requirements

undergrads:

- participation, 10%
- best 8 of 11 commentaries, due Sundays by 5 p.m., Pass/Fail, 20%
- 1st paper due Tu Feb. 25, 35%
- 2nd paper due M Apr. 7, 35%

grads:

- best 8 of 11 commentaries, due Sundays by 5 p.m., Pass/Fail, 20%
- participation, 10%
- final paper due M Apr. 7, 70%

How Pass/Fail will be calculated:

- Pass = weighted average of your participation grade and your grade on your essay(s)
- Fail = 0

Information on the Assignments

Commentaries are short (250-500 words) assignments that briefly develop a philosophical point about a single issue in, or question you have about, the readings for that week. They can be

constructive, critical, querying, comparative, etc. They are intended to get you (and the rest of us, when we read your commentary) started thinking about one issue.

Commentaries should be e-mailed to everyone in the class, including me, no later than 5 p.m. on the Sunday before class.

Late commentaries will not be accepted, since they form part of the basis for class discussion.

Undergraduate papers should be 1500-2000 words long, 2500 words maximum. You should choose your topics in consultation with me.

Graduate papers should be 4000-5000 words, 6000 words maximum. Topics are your choice.

You should use the essays to engage philosophically with the course material. Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis. Written work in which the relevant course readings and discussions are not central may be assigned a grade of zero.

I reserve the right to require an oral examination as part of any written piece of work. In that case, the oral examination counts for 75% of your grade on that assignment.

Late penalties are 2% per day, to a maximum of 15%.

I give a two-day, no-questions-asked extension on essays. For longer extensions, I may require a note from your Program Counsellor or a medical note.

Essays that arrive by the scheduled due date normally will be returned in ten days. Essays that arrive later, including those that come in during the grace period, will be returned later, and may receive sparser comments.

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. For information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, see the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml> or the Graduate Calendar at http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1415.shtml.

Drop Date

The last date for undergrads or grads to drop one-semester Winter 2014 courses, without

academic penalty, is Friday, March 7, 2014. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>. Graduate students should refer to the Graduate Calendar for the Schedule of Dates.

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 that involve, 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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar at

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

and in the Graduate Calendar at

http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/sec_d0e1702.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/>.

The Graduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations that apply to graduate programs:

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

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

Schedule

I have opted to assign roughly 40 pages of reading a week when we get to the *Philosophy of Right*. Occasionally this breaks up sections, particularly after Reading Week, but I thought that was preferable to assigning 55-60 pages some weeks and 25-30 others.

Jan. 7 Introduction

Jan. 14 Singer, *Hegel: A Very Short Introduction*

Jan. 21 Taylor, *Hegel and Modern Society*

Jan. 28 Introduction, §§ 1-33, pp. 25-64

Feb. 4 Intro to Part 1: Abstract Right and Sec. 1 Property, §§ 34-71, pp. 67-103

Feb. 11 Sec. 2 Contract, Sec. 3 Wrong, and Intro to Part 2: Morality, §§ 72-114, pp. 104-142

[Feb. 18 Reading Week – no class]

Feb. 25 Part 2, Secs. 1 Purpose, 2 Intention, and 3 The Good, §§ 115-141, pp. 143-186
Undergrads: 1st paper due

Mar. 4 Part 3: Intro, Sec. 1 Family, and Intro to Sec. 2 Civil Society, §§ 142-188, pp. 187-227

Mar. 11 Sec. 2: Sys. of Needs, Admin. of Justice, and Police & Corp., §§ 189-248, pp. 227-267

Mar. 18 Sec. 2 Police (cont.), Sec. 3 The State and Law, §§ 249-271, pp. 267-305

Mar. 25 Sec. 3: Sovereign, Exec. Power, and Legis. Power, §§ 272-304, pp. 305-342

Apr. 1 Sec. 3: Legis. Power, Ext. Sov., Int. Law, World History, §§ 305-360, pp. 345-379

Apr. 7 Undergrads: 2nd paper due
Grads: final paper due