

Skidmore College
Department of Philosophy & Religion
Syllabus

19th Century Philosophy
T-TH 3:40-5:30

Fall, 2009
Reg Lilly

Course Description

This course is the third in a sequence of courses in the history of philosophy. It is presumed that you've studied Greek and Modern philosophy. Its general goal is to give students an appreciation for 19th century philosophy.

The course begins, in fact, with a mostly 18th century philosopher, Kant. In the context of modern philosophy beginning with Descartes, Kant's transcendental philosophy represents a certain overcoming of dualisms, between mind and body, empiricism and rationalism, that thoroughly informed philosophy for two centuries. If Kant was the end of early modern philosophy and provided the point of departure for 19th century philosophy, the 19th century was indisputably dominated by Hegel and Hegelianism who proclaimed to have definitively and absolutely overcome dualisms. The 19th century is a century of thinkers acknowledging the force of Hegel's thinking all the while contesting it.

If Hegel was anything, he was prolific, out of necessity. Hegel's project was to produce the system of absolute knowledge, and doing this takes a lot of ink. It can take 100 or more pages of reading Hegel before one comes to see the big picture that is Hegel's main concern. The consequence of this for us is this: we'll have to read relatively large amounts of philosophy (not just Hegel) for each class. Since this is a survey course rather than, say, a seminar on Hegel, we will not be able to work through the texts in the sort of detail that normally I would. This will require free and robust conversation among the seminar participants so that we can make the connections and get the explanations necessary to bring the course materials into an intelligible configuration.

Required Texts

Wood (ed.), *The Kant Reader*
Houlgate (ed.), *The Hegel Reader*
Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engles Reader*
H Hong & E. Hong (ed.), *The Essential Kierkegaard*
Pearson (ed.), *The Nietzsche Reader*

Readings

Week 1
9/10 Introduction

Week 2: Kant

- 9/15 pp. 3-41 *Critique of Pure Reason*, “Prefaces,” “Introduction”
9/17 pp. 43-78 *Critique of Pure Reason*, “Transcendental Aesthetic”; “Transcendental Analytic”; “Transcendental Deduction”

Week 3 Kant

- 9/22 pp. 117-132 “Idea for a Universal History”; 133-141 What is Enlightenment
9/24 pp. 367-394 “Religion within the Limits of Reason”; pp. 415-432 “Theory and Practice”

Week 4 Hegel

- 9/29 pp. 50-86 *Phenomenology of Spirit*, “Preface,” “Introduction,” “Consciousness: Sense Certainty”
10/1 pp. 87-123 “Self-Consciousness,” “Freedom and Terror,” “Absolute Knowing”

Week 5 Hegel

- 10/6 pp. 177-211 *Science of Logic*: “With What Must the Science Begin”; “Doctrine of Being,” “Doctrine of Essence”
10/8 pp. 257-283 *Philosophy of Nature*

Week 6 Hegel

- 10/13 pp. 284-318 *Philosophy of Spirit*
10/15 pp. 325-355 *Philosophy of Right* (**First Paper assigned**)

Week 7 Hegel

- 10/20 pp. 356-399 *Philosophy of Right*
10/22 **Roundtable** (**First Paper due**)

Week 8 Marx

- 10/27 pp. 53- 125 “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction”; “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844”
10/29 pp. 302-343 “Capital”

Week 9 Marx / Kierkegaard

- 11/3 pp. 469-500 “Communist Manifesto”
11/5 pp. 20-36 “The Concept of Irony;” pp. 37- 65 “Either/Or Part I”

Week 10 Kierkegaard

- 11/10 pp. 84-92 “Four Upbuilding Discourses”; pp. 93-101 “Fear and Trembling;” pp. 116-125 “Philosophical Fragments”
11/12 pp. 126-137 “Johannes Climacus”; pp 138-155 “Concept of Anxiety”

Week 11 Kierkegaard/ Nietzsche

- 11/17 pp. 350-372 “Sickness Unto Death”
11/19 TBA

Week 12 Nietzsche

11/24: TBA

Thanksgiving

Week 13 Nietzsche

12/1 TBA **(Paper Proposal due)**

12/3 TBA **(Second Paper assigned)**

Week 14 Nietzsche

12/10 TBA **(Second Paper due)**

Course Requirements

There will be two shorter papers (8-10 pages), and a term paper (15 pages) required. The two shorter papers are due at mid-term and final class respectively. I will be providing a list of paper topics and seminar participants. The term paper should be 15 pages and is due **December 15 at 12:00 noon**.

There will be a “Roundtable” on **October 22**. This will be an opportunity half way through the semester for us to catch our breath, and to discuss issues that will help tie things together and prepare for the ‘post-Hegelian’ part of the semester. Seminar participants will be expected to be prepared to raise and respond to questions concerning the course materials to date. There will be further information given at an appropriate time.

Term papers should be on some aspect of one of the philosophers we are reading in the course. A paper proposal is due **December 1**. The proposal should include a brief half-page description of your paper topic and a bibliography. It should include both primary and secondary sources. As a rule of thumb, you should consult 3-5 secondary sources.

Office Hours: Ladd 218, T-TH 11-1:30; W 12:00-2:00 and by appointment. Phone x 5406, email: rlilly.