

Philosophy V 3264
Fall 2010
TuTh 9:10-10-25

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Office Hours: Tu, Th 2-3
& by appointment

19th-Century Philosophy: HEGEL

This course examines some of the major themes of Hegel's philosophy, with an emphasis on his social and political thought. Topics include Hegel's critique of Kant, the possibility of metaphysics, the master-slave dialectic, and the role of freedom in Hegel's account of rational social institutions. Readings from Fichte will help to explain how Hegel's project develops out of Kant's transcendental idealism. Some knowledge of Kant's moral theory and his *Critique of Pure Reason* is presupposed. Prerequisite: *at least one* of PHIL 2201, 2301, or 3251.

Required primary texts:

- *Fichte, J. G., *Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre*, Daniel Breazeale, trans. (Hackett) (= IWL)
- *Hegel, G.W.F., *Phenomenology of Spirit*, A. V. Miller, trans. (Oxford) (= PhG)
- *_____, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, H.B. Nisbet, trans. (Cambridge) (= PhR)
[The translation of *Philosophy of Right* by T.M. Knox (Oxford) is also acceptable.]

Recommended secondary texts (on reserve in Butler Library):

- *Neuhouser, Frederick, *Fichte's Theory of Subjectivity* (Cambridge) (= FTS)
- *_____, "The First Presentation of the *Wissenschaftslehre*," in *Cambridge Companion to Fichte*, 2011

Taylor, Charles, *Hegel* (Cambridge)

- *Beiser, Frederick C., ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Hegel* (Cambridge), 2nd ed. (2008)
- Pippin, Robert B., *Hegel's Idealism* (Cambridge)

- *Bristow, William, *Hegel and the Transformation of Philosophical Critique* (Oxford)
- Butler, Judith, *Subjects of Desire: Hegelian Reflections in Twentieth-Century France* (Columbia)
- *Forster, Michael N., *Hegel's Idea of a 'Phenomenology of Spirit'* (Chicago)
- Gadamer, Hans-Georg, *Hegel's Dialectic* (Yale)
- *Hyppolite, Jean, *Genesis and Structure of Hegel's 'Phenomenology'* (Northwestern)
- Kojève, Alexandre, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel* (Cornell)
- *Neuhouser, Frederick, "Desire, Recognition, and the Relation between Bondsman and Lord," in *Hegel's 'Phenomenology of Spirit'* (Blackwell, 2008)
- Pinkard, Terry, *Hegel's Phenomenology* (Cambridge)
- Westphal, Kenneth R., "Hegel's Internal Critique of Naive Realism," *Journal of Philosophical Research* 25 (2000), 173-228
- *Yovel, Yirmiyahu, *Hegel's Preface to the 'Phenomenology of Spirit'* (Princeton)
- *Wood, Allen, *Hegel's Ethical Thought* (Cambridge)
- *Neuhouser, Frederick, *Actualizing Freedom: Foundations of Hegel's Social Theory* (Harvard) (= HST)
- *_____, "Hegel's Social Philosophy," in *The Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, 2nd ed. (2008)
- Foster, M. B., *The Political Philosophies of Plato and Hegel* (Oxford)
- Hardimon, Michael, *Hegel's Social Philosophy: The Project of Reconciliation* (Cambridge)
- Patten, Alan, *Hegel's Idea of Freedom* (Oxford)

*Highly recommended; most available at Book Culture, 112th Street

Course requirements:

- Two papers: i) 6-7 pages, due Wednesday, October 20, 5:00 p.m.
- ii) 8-10 pages, due Monday, December 6, 5:00 p.m.
- One take-home midterm, due October 9
- One final exam, Thursday, December 16, 9:00 a.m.-noon

[Please note: the final will be given at this time only. Plan your holiday travel accordingly.]

Schedule of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

- Sept. 7 Introductory Session
 [Forster, 17-42, 55-7, 61-78]
- Fichte**
- 9 Aims of Post-Kantian Philosophy: "First Intro. to the *Wissenschaftslehre*" (IWL, 2-29)
 [Neuhouser (FTS), Ch. 1]
- (Note: 13 The Idea of System: "First Introduction;" IWL, 30-5**
Extra Class) (Optional: "Second Introduction to the *Wissenschaftslehre*" (IWL, 36-105))
 [Neuhouser (FTS), Ch. 2]
 [Neuhouser, "The First Presentation of the *Wissenschaftslehre*"]
- 14 The Subject as Starting Point: *Attempt at a New Presentation of the WL* (IWL, 106-18)
 [§1 of Fichte's 1794 *Wissenschaftslehre* (handout)]
 [Neuhouser (FTS), Ch. 3]
- 16 CLASS CANCELED (make-up class on September 13)
- Hegel: Phenomenology of Spirit**
- 21, 23 Philosophy as System & Idea of Spirit: Preface (PhG, ¶¶1-37, 67-72: especially ¶¶17-18)
 [Yovel, entire book]
 [Forster, 193-204, 103-10]
- 28, 30 Aims of the *Phenomenology*: Introduction; PhG, ¶¶73-89
 [Forster, 110-31, 152-61, 164-7, 184-7, 226-35, 270-81]
- Oct. 5 Consciousness (Sense-Certainty): PhG, ¶¶90-110
 plus a commentary on the chapter "Consciousness" (e. g., Hyppolite, Pinkard)
 [Westphal, "Hegel's Internal Critique of Naive Realism" (Concentrate on §4.)]
- 7 Self-Consciousness (Desire): PhG, ¶¶166-77, 195
 (Skim the very difficult section on "Life," ¶¶168-72.)
 [Butler, Ch. 1; See also Hyppolite, Kojève, and Pinkard]
 [Neuhouser, "Desire, Recognition, and the Relation between Bondsman and Lord"]
- 12 MIDTERM DUE, 9:10 a.m. (exam handed out in class, Oct. 7)
- 12, 14, 19, 21 Self-Consciousness (Struggle unto Death & Lordship and Bondage): PhG, ¶¶178-97
 [Gadamer, Ch. 3; See also Hyppolite, Kojève, and Pinkard]
- 26 Summary of Stoicism, Skepticism, and the Unhappy Consciousness;
 (Read Taylor or Hyppolite on these sections.)
 [Forster, 248-55]
- 28 1) Reason: Critique of "Idealism" and Kant's Moral Theory;
 PhG, ¶¶231-5, 238-9, 429-37 (Also: PhR, §135)
 [Forster, 326-32, 348-53; Patten, Ch. 3 (§§1-3); Wood, Ch. 9]

2) Spirit: the Concept of *Sittlichkeit* (Ethical Life); PhG, ¶¶347-59, 438-41, 447
Also: Absolute Knowing: Transition to the System Proper; PhG, ¶¶788, 792-8, 804-8

Hegel: *Philosophy of Right*

- Nov. 4 The Aim of Political Philosophy: Preface; PhR, 9-23
 [Neuhouser (HST), 1-16; Hardimon, Ch.4]
- 9, 11 Will as the Foundation of Practical Philosophy: Introduction; PhR, §§1-33
 [Neuhouser (HST), 17-35; Patten, Ch. 2; Wood, Ch. 3]
- 16 Abstract Right I: Property; PhR, §§34-51
 [Patten, Ch. 5; Wood, Ch. 5]
- 18 Abstract Right II: Contract, Wrong, and Transition to Morality; PhR, §§71-5, 81-2, 90-104
 [Patten, 177-83]
- 23 Morality (summary) and Transition to *Sittlichkeit* (Ethical Life);
 PhR, §§105-14, 129-38 (especially 136-8), 141
 [Foster, 72-98; Patten, 184-6]
- 30 Sittlichkeit: The Concept of Ethical Life; PhR, §§142-57
 [Neuhouser (HST), 35-54, 82-174; Patten, Chs. 1, 3 (§§4-5), 4 (§§3-4)]
- Dec. 2 Sittlichkeit: The Family; PhR, §§158-81
 [Neuhouser (HST), 98-99, 135-6, 142-4, 149-57, 169-70, 276-7]
- 7 Sittlichkeit: Civil Society; PhR, §§182-208, 230-56; skim §§209-29
 [Neuhouser (HST), 135-7, 157-65, 170-74; Patten, Ch. 6 (§§1-2); Wood, 247-55]
- 9 Sittlichkeit: The State; PhR, §§257-71;
 [Neuhouser (HST), 137-140, 208-24; Patten, Ch. 6 (§§3-5)]
 (§§272-329 lay out the details of Hegel's conception of constitutional monarchy. Since this won't be covered in lecture, you ought to read it on your own.)

Final grades will be determined as follows:

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 20% First Paper | 30% Second Paper |
| 17% Midterm | 33% Final Exam |

A note on grades: In recent years some students seem to have acquired the belief that merely turning in the required course work assures them a grade of B. In this course I consciously attempt to break with the current trend of rampant grade inflation. This means that I use the full range of the grading scale, A to F. B's are reserved for good work; merely satisfactory work receives a C. Since A designates excellence ("standing out"), it's unlikely that, say, 40% of the class will receive a final grade of A. On the other hand, I don't curve grades, so if half the class does excellent work, half the class will receive an A.

A passing grade on each paper and exam is required to pass the course. Irregular attendance can influence final grades (negatively) in borderline cases.

E-mail: You may contact me by e-mail when you have a question that can be answered in a sentence or two (e.g., about course requirements or to set up an appointment). E-mail is a great convenience, but it can't replace philosophical conversation in person. When you have philosophical questions, please come to my office hours or make an appointment with me. **Do not send me copies of your papers as e-mail**

attachments. Only hard (paper) copies will be accepted.

All assignments in this class are to be completed in accordance with the **Barnard Honor Code**. Columbia students commit themselves to the Honor Code upon registering for a Barnard course. The code says, in part: "We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present . . . written work that is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor."

The penalty for **plagiarism** will be failure of the course in all cases. If you are in any doubt as to what constitutes the illegitimate use of another person's work, don't hesitate to consult me.

Students who need disability-related accommodations should both see me and stop by the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible.