

Course Description: PHIL 416, Topics in 19th Century Philosophy

The course will focus on one book, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, by G.W.F. Hegel. We will begin with a review of German Idealism, then proceed through the book closely. We will consider a few of the major responses to the book, including those by Marx, Kojève and Jameson. The course will be taught asynchronously, with taped videos on Canvas. I will post videos for each class, and ask you to respond during discussion on Zoom, in writing or during office hours. There will be two exams and one final research paper.

Philosophy 416

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Steven Taubeneck

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Discussions and office hours: TTH 11-12.30 (Vancouver Time) or by appt.

Week 1: Introduction: What was German Idealism? (Sept. 10)

T: Overview of Kant's Three *Critiques* (excerpts)

Th: From Fichte's "Pure I" to Schelling's Philosophy of Nature (excerpts)

Week 2: The Difficulties of Reading Hegel (Sept. 15-17)

T: Hegel, "Preface," <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/ph/pinkard-translation-of-phenomenology.pdf>, pp. 1-68

Th: Hegel, "Introduction," pp. 68-85

Week 3: Hegelian Consciousness (Sept. 22-24)

T: Hegel, "Sense-Certainty" and "Perception," pp. 85-115

Th: Hegel, "Force and the Understanding," pp. 115-151

Week 4: Self-Consciousness in Relation to Others (Sept. 29-Oct. 1)

T: Hegel, "The Truth of Self-Certainty," pp. 151-173

Th: Hegel, "Freedom," pp. 173-202. **Take-home exam distributed**

Week 5: Hegelian Reason, Nature and Actuality (Oct. 6-8)

T: Hegel, "Reason and Nature," pp. 202-262. **Take-home exam due**

Th: Hegel, "Physiognomy and Phrenology," pp. 262-306

Week 6: Actualizing Self-Consciousness and Individuality (Oct. 13-15)

T: Hegel, "Actualizing Self-consciousness by Way of Itself," pp. 306-343

Th: Hegel, "Individuality and Law-giving Reason," pp. 343-383

Week 7: Reason in the Enlightenment (Oct. 20-22)

T: Hegel, "Ethical Life," pp. 383-477

Th: Hegel, "The Enlightenment, Absolute Freedom and Terror," 477-531

Week 8: From Morality to Conscience (Oct. 27-29)

T: Hegel, "Morality and Dissemblance," pp. 531-561

Th: Hegel, "Conscience," pp. 561-601

Week 9: Hegel's Philosophy of Religion (Nov. 3-5)

T: Hegel, "Natural Religion," pp. 601-662

Th: Hegel, "Religion as Art and Revelation," pp. 662-700

Week 10: Of Endings and Beginnings (Nov. 10-12)

T: Hegel, "Absolute Knowledge," pp. 700-716

Th: Hegel, "Spirit Realizing Itself," pp. 716-719. **Take-home exam distributed**

Week 11: Karl Marx Transforms Hegel (Nov. 17-19)

T: Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, part 1. **Take-home exam due**

Th: Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1 (excerpts)

Week 12: Kojève Reads Hegel: Marx + Heidegger? (Nov. 24-26)

T: Alexandre Kojève, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel. Lectures on the Phenomenology of Spirit*, <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/u.osu.edu/dist/5/25851/files/2016/02/KOJEVE-introduction-to-the-reading-of-hegel-zg6tm7.pdf>, pp. 3-75

Th: Kojève, "The End of History" and "The Master-Slave Dialectic" (excerpts)

Week 13: Feminist and Frankfurt School Readings (Dec. 1-3)

T: Judith Butler, *Subjects of Desire*, "Desire, Rhetoric and Recognition in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*," pp. 17-60

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323384524_Butler_Judith_Subjects_of_Desire_Hegelian_Reflections_in_Twentieth-century_France/link/5c912498a6fdcc38175f5e9b/download

Th: Fredric Jameson, *The Hegel Variations. On the Phenomenology of Spirit*, <https://libcom.org/files/fredric-jameson-the-hegel-variations-on-the-phenomenology-of-the-spirit.compressed.pdf>

Week 14: Final research paper due (Dec. 11)

Work for the class

Participation: 15%. This involves attendance, participating in discussions, asking questions, visiting office hours, and e-mail responses.

Two exams (take-home): 25% each, or 50% overall. Each exam will deal with the previous unit of material.

Research paper: 35%. The paper will involve a minimum of 7 pages (2100 words) on any topic arising from the context of the course. Topics will be suggested. By "research" I mean the consideration of secondary literature on your topic.