

Philosophy 218—Revolutions in Modern Philosophy

Tues & Thurs 3:20-5:40pm (HW 505)
Summer 2016 (6/2-7/26)

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Course Objectives and Content

This course focuses on 19th-century German philosophy. First, we learn how Kant's transcendental idealism revolutionized philosophy, keeping in mind the empiricist and rationalist philosophies that influenced his own. We focus on key ideas from his *Critique of Pure Reason*, such as his constructivist view of experience, the possibility of a priori knowledge, and the unity of apperception. Next, we see how Hegel's absolute idealism both follows from and is critical of Kant. We closely examine his view of the historical and logical progression of consciousness, self-consciousness, (inter-)subjectivity, reason, and freedom. After Kant and Hegel, we study critiques of their respective brands of idealism by Nietzsche and Marx. We look at Nietzsche's idea of master and slave morality, focusing on issues of religion, ethics, freedom, aesthetics, and subjectivity. Finally, we see how Marx's historical materialism is heavily influenced by Hegel, yet "stood Hegel on his head"—or right side up—connecting their respective ideas of alienation and historical participation. Along the way, we may look at Schopenhauer, Schiller, or others from the period.

Prerequisites: English 120 or equivalent *and at least one philosophy course.*

Readings

All readings are on Hunter Library's Course Reserves (ERes) so no book is required to buy, but **readings must be brought to each class** either printed out, or on an e-reader or tablet. Specific readings and due dates will be listed on the schedule (handed out and in Bb).

A bibliography is handed out and on Bb should you choose to bring any readings in book form; it includes the following primary sources, of which **we will read selections, not their entirety:**

Kant, *The Critique of Pure Reason* (Kemp Smith or Guyer & Wood trans.)

Hegel, *The Phenomenology of Spirit* (Pinkard or Miller trans.)

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right* (any trans.)

Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (any trans.)

Marx, selections (found in, e.g., *Marx-Engels Reader, 2nd Ed.*, ed. Tucker)

In addition, there will be additional short reading selections and multiple required contemporary secondary sources provided for each of the above, all on ERes as PDFs, which are also on the bibliography. These will be a necessary component in your written assignments. Thus, you must have regular access to the Internet and to a printer, e-reader, or tablet, even if you have the primary sources as books.