

# NINETEENTH CENTURY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 320 (3 hrs), Manchester University, Spring 2017

MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m., Academic Center 354

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**Instructor:** Dr. Steve Naragon, Office: Academic Center 233 (Phone — *office*: 982-5041; *home*: 982-6033)

**Web syllabus:** <http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/320-S17/Welcome.html>

## Required Texts:

- (1) Lloyd Spencer and Andrzej Krauze, *Introducing Hegel* (Totem Books/USA, 1996). [ISBN: 1-84046-111-X]
- (2) Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, transl. A. V. Miller (Oxford UP, 1979). [ISBN: 9780198245971]
- (3) Soren Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, edited by C. Stephen Evans and Sylvia Walsh (Cambridge UP, 2006). [ISBN: 978-0-521-61269-2]
- (4) Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, transl. Walter Kaufmann (Vintage/Random House, 1974). [ISBN: 0-394719-85-9]
- (5) Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, transl. Maudemarie Clark and Alan J. Swensen (Hackett, 1998). [ISBN: 0-87220-283-6]
- (6) Handouts of texts by Hegel, Arthur Schopenhauer, Karl Marx, etc.

## Course Objective.

We will read European philosophers from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, beginning with Hegel and ending with Nietzsche. By the end of all this you should be able to mark improvement in the following areas: (1) your understanding of the nature and history of Western philosophy; (2) your skills for critically evaluating arguments and beliefs; (3) your ability to read primary texts; (4) your sense of the historiography of philosophy; and (5) your ability to reflect carefully on certain questions that confront us all: How can I know something to be true? What is the good life and how is it attained? What is it to be human?

**Some virtues** to bring with you into the philosophy classroom: **humility** when comparing your beliefs with those of others; **patience** for listening closely to views that seem foolish or misguided to you; **courage** to advance in the face of adversity what seems to be the correct view; **endurance** for following arguments to their conclusion; **humor** for those moments when you feel the utter futility of your efforts.

## Requirements and Grading

**Readings.** Read the assignments *closely* prior to class, and *always bring the text*. Class discussions and your success in this class depend upon this. If you are not willing to commit yourself to this, then it would be best to withdraw from the course. We will be using two different kinds of text. The book by Matson is a light, secondary discussion of the philosophers and their ideas. You should read this as background. The bulk of your time will be spent reading the primary materials, written by the philosophers themselves. These texts will be our focus in class.

**Attendance and Participation.** A course on philosophy is by its nature aimed at self-examination and discussion; consequently, taking the class requires being there. Being there is the first step, however, but it's not enough. Uninformed talk is worse than silence, so you need to arrive to class having worked through and reflected on the readings for the day.

**Discussion Paragraphs.** To encourage us to keep up on the readings and to come prepared for class discussions, I would like everyone, before each class session, to write up a one-paragraph discussion on some passage in the reading (it can be any passage, so long as it doesn't overlap with the topic of the short essay for that day). **These daily paragraphs are due by 9:00 AM (submitted through Canvas), and late is the same as never;** they will be graded following a 5 pt. rubric.

**Short Essays.** An essay topic is provided for nearly every day, and the essays are due **before** class. You will need to complete **twelve** of these for full credit (that works out to a bit less than one essay per week). This flexibility allows you to better fit the requirements of this class to your particular interests and to your overall workload for the semester. Please submit these 1-2 page essays through Canvas. they will be graded following a 5 pt. rubric. See the online syllabus for more details.

**Exams.** There will be three in-class essay exams.

**Grading.** The three exams are worth 15% each of the course grade (3 x 15% = 45%), the set of essays are worth 45%, and the set of daily discussion paragraphs is worth 10%.

**Cell Phones.** In the best of all possible worlds, you do not bring these to class. In the second best possible world, you keep them turned off and put away. In various versions of a godless and lesser hell, you have your phones always out and on while reflexively checking your various social media accounts for affirmations by others — and thus are your hours spent, in this lesser hell.



**Title IX reporting requirements / Student disability and reasonable accommodation statement / Medical emergency evacuation schedule:** See the “Course Requirements” page of the web syllabus.

**Cheating and Plagiarism.** See the “Course Requirements” page of the web syllabus

<b>Schedule of Discussion and Reading</b>
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<b>After Kant</b>
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Wed, Feb 1  
Overview of 19th Century Philosophy

Fri, Feb 3  
Review of Kant

| Read: Naragon, "Kant's Revolution" (pdf);  
Beiser, "The Enlightenment and German  
Idealism." (pdf)

Mon, Feb 6  
Post-Kantian Idealists  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 1-51.

<b>Hegel</b>
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Wed, Feb 8  
Introduction to Hegel  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 74-91

Fri, Feb 10  
*Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807):  
Introduction  
| Read: Hegel, *Phen.Spirit*, §§73-89.  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 52-59.

Mon, Feb 13  
*Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807): Sense-  
Certainty  
| Read: Hegel, *Phen.Spirit*, §§ 90-110.

Wed, Feb 15  
*Phen. of Spirit*: Truth of Self-Certainty  
| Read: Hegel, *Phen.Spirit*, §§166-77.

Fri, Feb 17  
*Phen. of Spirit*: Master/Slave Dialectic  
| Read: Hegel, *Phen.Spirit*, §§178-96.  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 60-63.

Mon, Feb 20  
*Phen. of Spirit*: Absolute Knowing  
| Read: Hegel, *Phen.Spirit*, §§788-808  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 64-65.

Wed, Feb 22  
**MU Discussion Day**

Fri, Feb 24  
Hegel's System  
| Read: Hegel, "Introduction" to the  
*Encyclopedia* (1st ed: 1817; 3rd ed:  
1830). §§1-18 **only**. (pdf)  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 66-95.

<b>Mon, Feb 27</b>	<b>First Exam</b>
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<b>Schopenhauer</b>
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Wed, Mar 1  
Introduction to Schopenhauer  
| Read: *The World as Will and Representa-  
tion*, vol. 1, §§17-18. (pdf)

Fri, Mar 3  
| Read: *The World as Will and Representa-  
tion*, vol. 1, §19.

Mon, Mar 6  
| Read: *The World as Will and Representa-  
tion*, vol. 2, §19, pp. 201-20. (pdf)

Wed, Mar 8  
| Read: *The World as Will and Representa-  
tion*, vol. 2, §19, pp. 220-44.

<b>Marx</b>
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Fri, Mar 10  
Introduction to Marx  
| Read: Spencer/Krauze, pp. 148-71.

Mon, Mar 13  
1843  
| Read: "Introduction" to *A Contribution to  
the Critique of Hegel's Theory of Right*.  
(pdf)

Wed, Mar 15  
1844-45  
| Read: *Paris Manuscripts*, Alienated Labor.  
(pdf)

Fri, Mar 17  
1844-45  
| Read: "Theses on Feuerbach." (pdf)

---Spring Break---

Mon, Mar 27  
1845  
| Read: *German Ideology*. (pdf)

Wed, Mar 29  
1845  
| Read: *German Ideology* (cont.)

Fri, Mar 31 --- [No Class]

Mon, Apr 3  
1848  
| Read: *Communist Manifesto*. (pdf)

Wed, Apr 5  
1859  
| Read: "Preface" to a *Contribution to the  
Critique of Political Economy*. (pdf)

<b>Fri, Apr 7</b>	<b>Second Exam</b>
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<b>Kierkegaard</b>
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Mon, Apr 10  
Introduction to Kierkegaard  
| Read: Guignon/Pereboom, "Introduction" to  
Kierkegaard (pdf)

Wed, Apr 12  
*Fear and Trembling*  
| Read: *Fear and Trembling*: Preface, Tuning Up

---Good Friday---

Mon, Apr 17  
| Read: *FT*: "Tribute to Abraham" and  
"Preliminary Outpouring."

Wed, Apr 19  
| Read: *FT*: "Problem I."

Fri, Apr 21  
| Read: *FT*: "Problem II."

Mon, Apr 24  
| Read: *FT*: "Problem III."

<b>Nietzsche</b>
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Wed, Apr 26  
Introduction to Nietzsche  
| Read: *Genealogy of Morality*, 1st Treatise

Fri, Apr 28  
| Read: *Genealogy of Morality*, 2nd Treatise

Mon, May 1  
| Read: *Genealogy of Morality*, 3rd Treatise

Wed, May 3  
| Read: *Gay Science*, Preface to 1st ed. + §§1-  
3, 54-58, 99-107.

Fri, May 5  
| Read: *Gay Science*, Preface to 2nd ed. +  
§§108-25, 270, 276-83, 289-90.

Mon, May 8  
| Read: *Gay Science*, §§333, 335, 340-42,  
343-60.

Wed, May 10  
| Read: *Gay Science*, §§370-83.

Fri, May 12 --- No Class

<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>Third Exam</b>
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