

## Study Guide for Exam #1: Kant to Hegel (Nineteenth Century Philosophy, Spring 2017)

You may prepare notes (no more than one sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper) to help you write this exam; these notes need to be turned in with the exam. You may also use the Hegel texts (paper only — no cell phone or laptop). The exam needs to be written within the space of our 55 minutes, and will consist of a selection from the following questions. You can use any resource at your disposal when preparing for these short essays, but you should start with the primary readings.

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“Those who invoke feeling as their internal oracle are finished with anyone who does not agree: they have to own that they have nothing further to say to anyone who does not find and feel the same in his heart — in other words, they trample under foot the roots of humanity. For it is the nature of humanity to struggle for agreement with others, and humanity exists only in the accomplished community of consciousness. The anti-human, the animalic, consists in remaining at the level of feeling and being able to communicate only through feelings.” [Hegel, from his “Preface” to *Phenomenology of Mind* (1807)]

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1. What did Kant think of metaphysical speculation? Was this something to be avoided? Explain.
2. Briefly explain Kant’s distinction between the phenomenal and the noumenal worlds.
3. Why does Kant believe that there is a noumenal world?
4. Very briefly describe what Kant means by “transcendental realism” and “transcendental idealism.”
5. In what sense are Kant and Hegel idealists? They normally are considered to be different sorts of idealists: explain how they differ in this respect.
6. How does Hegel characterize knowledge in the “Introduction” to *PhG*? What problem do these characterizations present?
7. In what sense did Hegel think that he was “completing Kant”?
8. In the introduction to his *Encyclopedia*, Hegel writes that “philosophy ... is a peculiar mode of thinking — a mode in which thinking becomes knowledge.” What does this mean?
9. Hegel claims in his *Philosophy of Right* that “what is rational is actual, and what is actual is rational”; what does he mean by this?
10. What does Hegel mean by knowledge? What model of knowledge does Hegel reject in the “Introduction” to the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and why?
11. What does Hegel mean by ...
  - ... negation (both determinate and absolute)
  - ... system (or: “System”) [see esp. the *Encyclopedia* reading]
  - ... the Absolute
  - ... *die Aufhebung* (supercession, sublation)
12. Explain, and give an example, of Hegel’s dialectic. What might Hegel mean when he says that “thought in its very nature is dialectical” (*Encyclopedia*; “Introduction” to the *PhG*)?
13. What is the point of Hegel’s discussion of “the ancient Eleusinian mysteries of Ceres and Bacchus” in the *Phenomenology of Spirit* (§109)?
14. Be able to describe the consciousness-type called “Sense Certainty.” What is it? And why is it ultimately unstable?
15. Be able to describe the master/slave dialectic. How is this related to the question of self-consciousness?
16. In broad strokes, describe the progress of knowledge in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*.