Kant and Post-Kantian Idealism

PHIL 607 / CRN 27133
TR 10:00-12:00
SCH 250c

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Office Hours: W 2-4
& by appointment
SCH 242

Course Description:
This seminar will serve as an introduction to German Idealism. We will examine the development of idealism from Kant to Hegel. In order to do so in 10 weeks, we will focus on one of many strands of Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel’s responses to Kant’s critical philosophy. In the Critique of Pure Reason, Kant set out to develop a critical philosophy by reigning in reason, which time and again transgresses the limits of experience. He redefined the task of metaphysics, since he laid out the conditions for the possibility of experience yet passed over in silence the ground of self-consciousness. Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel set out to account for the ground of self-consciousness, which according to the post-Kantians is coeval with the ground of freedom. In arguing that action, nature, and history are the ground of self-consciousness, Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel moved Kant’s critical project in a radically new direction.

Primary Texts:

All primary texts are available at the Duckstore, except texts that are prohibitively expensive or unavailable. A coursepack is available on Blackboard containing the latter. See below for a list of Secondary Sources. Books marked * are on reserve at Knight.

Course Structure, Requirements, and Policies:
~Presentations:
You will be required to lead a seminar discussion. Leading a discussion involves writing a 5-page report on the text, which you will distribute via email to the class the day before the class session in which you will present meets. The report should reconstruct the argument of the text and raise a set of critical questions. You will open the discussion with a 10-15 minute presentation working off your written report.

~Prospectus:
You will submit a one-page prospectus stating the topic of your paper and the argument that you intend to pursue. Please include an annotated bibliography with a list of secondary sources that you intend to use. Submission of final paper is contingent on approval of your prospectus. Your prospectus is due on Friday of week 7.
~Final Paper:
This 3,000 wd. paper may develop further—both exegetically and critically—your presentation, although it need not. It may engage a different text or theme than the one discussed in your presentation. As a research paper, you must engage secondary literature and modestly attempt to pursue an original thesis.

All final papers are due via email by noon on Thursday, March 20th. You will be responsible for making sure that I have received your paper—I will reply to your email noting that I have downloaded the paper without problems. Until you receive this confirmation, you have not yet submitted your paper. No late papers will be accepted, unless accompanied by proof of illness or emergency.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.
For more information, see http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/.

Grading Standard:
A+ = superb. No mistakes, well-written, well-researched, and pursues an original thesis.
A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.

Grading:
Class participation 20%
Presentation 30%
Final paper 50%

Participation:
Coming prepared to discuss the assigned text and participating in class discussions are requirements.

Attendance:
You are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. More than 3 absences will result in a failing final grade, unless proof of illness or emergency is provided.

Accommodation for a Disability:
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.
**Schedule of Readings:** (subject to change during the quarter with advance notice via email)

### Wk. 1

**T. 1/7**  
Introduction to the course and syllabus with reference to Kant, Prefaces,  
*Critique of Pure Reason*

**R. 1/9**  
Kant, Introduction and Second Edition Transcendental Aesthetic,  
*Critique of Pure Reason*

### Wk. 2

**T. 1/14**  

**R. 1/16**  
Kant, Second Edition Transcendental Deduction, *Critique of Pure Reason*  
B129-169, esp. §19

### Wk. 3

**T. 1/21**  
Kant, Third Antinomy, *Critique of Pure Reason* A444/B472-A451/B477,  
A532/B559-A558/B586, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* §III,  
and *Critique of Practical Reason*, 5:42-5:50

**R. 1/23**  
First Introduction to the *Critique of Judgment* and §§69, 70, 71, 75-78,  
esp. §§76 and 77

### Wk. 4

**T. 1/28**  
Fichte, First Introduction to *The Science of Knowledge*

**R. 1/30**  
Fichte, Second Introduction to *The Science of Knowledge*

### Wk. 5

**T. 2/4**  
Fichte, “Fundamental Principles of the Entire Science of Knowledge,”  
Pt. 1 of *The Science of Knowledge*

**R. 2/6**  
Fichte, “Foundation of Knowledge of the Practical,”  
Pt. 3 of *The Science of Knowledge*

### Wk. 6

**T. 2/11**  
Schelling, Introductions *Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature* & Supplement

**R. 2/13**  

### Wk. 7

**T. 2/18**  
Schelling, Introduction to the *Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature*

**R. 2/20**  
Schelling, selections of *On the World Soul*

### Wk. 8

**T. 2/25**  
Hegel, “Introduction,” “A. Kantian Philosophy,” *Faith and Knowledge*

**R. 2/27**  
Hegel, “Introduction,” and “Preface” ¶¶ 1-37, 47-72, *Phenomenology of Spirit*

### Wk. 9

**T. 3/4**  
Hegel, “Of the Concept in General,” Forward to the Doctrine of the Concept,  
*Science of Logic*

**R. 3/6**  

### Wk. 10

**T. 3/11**  

**R. 3/13**  
Hegel, “The Absolute Idea,” *Science of Logic*
Some Secondary Sources:

Development of German Idealism:
* Erckart Förster, The Twenty-Five Years of Philosophy
* Terry Pinkard, German Philosophy (1760-1860) The Legacy of Idealism
Dieter Henrich, Between Kant and Hegel
Fred Beiser, German Idealism: The Struggle Against Subjectivism
* Sally Sedgwick, ed. The Reception of Kant’s Critical Philosophy: Fichte, Schelling, Hegel

Kant:
Paul Guyer, Kant
Sebastian Gardner, Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason
Howard Caygill, A Kant Dictionary
Blackwell Companion to Kant
* Henry Allison, Kant’s Transcendental Idealism
* Béatrice Longuenesse, Kant and the Capacity to Judge
* Angelica Nuzzo, Kant and the Unity of Reason
Paul Guyer, Kant and the Claims of Knowledge
Michelle Grier, Kant’s Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion
Eric Watkins, Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality
Rachel Zuckert, Kant on Beauty and Biology

Fichte:
Dieter Henrich, “Fichte’s Original Insight”
* Frederick Neuhouser, Fichte’s Theory of Subjectivity
* Wayne Martin, Idealism and Objectivity
* Günter Zöller, Fichte’s Transcendental Philosophy
Daniel Breazeale, “Check or Checkmate? On the Finitude of the Fichtean Self”
Breazeale and Rockmore, eds. Fichte: Historical Context/Contemporary Controversies and New Essays on Fichte’s Foundation of the Entire Doctrine of Scientific Knowledge

Schelling:
* Bowie, Schelling and Modern European Philosophy
* Dale Snow, Schelling and the End of Idealism
Zizek, The Indivisible Remainder
J. Esposito, Schelling’s Idealism and Philosophy of Nature

Hegel:
Fred Beiser, Hegel
Stephen Houlgate, Freedom, Truth, and History
* Robert Pippin, Hegel’s Idealism; Hegel’s Practical Philosophy
* Stephen Houlgate, The Opening of Hegel’s Logic
* Sally Sedgwick, Hegel’s Critique of Kant: From Dichotomy to Identity
Beatrice Longueness, Hegel’s Critique of Metaphysics
Karin DeBoer, On Hegel: The Sway of the Negative
Angelica Nuzzo, “The Idea of Method in Hegel’s Logic”
Brady Bowman, Hegel and the Metaphysics of Absolute Negativity