

Phil 3020: Nineteenth Century Philosophy
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:15
Peabody 220

Prof. Elizabeth Brient

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00 and by appointment

Course Description:

Nineteenth century philosophy is in large part an examination of the potential, problems, and paradoxes of distinctively "modern" forms of thought and action, forms that broke with "traditional" intellectual, cultural, economic, political, and religious approaches, institutions, and practices. Since examination of the status and fate of "modernity" is a central focus of much 20th century and contemporary intellectual and cultural debates, the themes of nineteenth century philosophy are still very much alive in current philosophical discourse. We will focus in particular on the way in which 19th century thinkers reflected on and developed sophisticated conceptions of the historicity of human beings. If human nature is not a static, universal "given," but rather, historically dynamic and historically determined, then new and interesting philosophical questions emerge. The two central questions around which this course is organized are: Is there a pattern or meaning to human history as a whole? What is the relationship between time and human freedom? Readings will be drawn from Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, & Bergson.

Required Texts:

G.W.F. Hegel: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett)

Karl Marx, *Selected Writings* (**available as a course packet at Bel Jean Copy Center**)

Soren Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard* (Princeton University Press)

Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life* (Hackett)

Henri Bergson, *Time and Free Will* (Dover)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading of all assigned material, regular attendance and participation in class discussions
 - Students who miss the equivalent of six classes, for whatever reason, will be subject to academic withdrawal.
 - Attendance, class participation and improvement will be taken into account to resolve borderline cases regarding the final grade for the course.
- 2) Two 5-6 page papers (each worth 25% of grade)
 - 19 Midterm exam (worth 25% of grade)
 - 20 Final exam (worth 25% of grade)

This syllabus represents a projected schedule of readings for this course and is subject to change throughout the semester. All assignments are to be read *prior* to class on the date assigned.

Tentative Syllabus:

Aug.	16	Introduction
	21	Hegel: <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of History</i> , Translator's Introduction (pp. vii-xii), Chapter One (pp. 3-11), and Appendix (pp. 99-106)
	23	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 2 (pp. 12-18)
	28	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 19-29)

- 30 Hegel: *Philosophy of History*, Chapter 3 (pp. 30-40)
- Sept. 4 Hegel: *Philosophy of History*, Chapter 3 (pp. 40-56)
6 Hegel: *Philosophy of History*, Chapter 3 (pp. 40-56)
- 11 Hegel: *Philosophy of History*, Chapter 4 (pp. 57-70)
13 Hegel: *Philosophy of History*, Chapter 4 (pp. 71-82)
- 17 **First paper due on Monday: Give it to the secretary in the Philosophy Department main office (Peabody Hall, Room 107) by 4:00 p.m.**
- 18 Marx: *Selected Writings*, "German Ideology" (pp. 102-115)
20 Marx: *Selected Writings*, "German Ideology" (pp. 115-132, 144-147)
- 25 Marx: *Selected Writings*, "The Communist Manifesto" (pp. 157-169)
27 Marx: *Selected Writings*, "The Communist Manifesto" (pp. 169-176)
- Oct. 2 **Midterm Exam**
4 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "Fear and Trembling," pp. 91-101, and "Philosophical Fragments," pp. 116-125
- 9 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "The Book on Adler," pp. 411-423
11 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "The Concept of Anxiety," pp. 138-155
- 16 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 186-198
18 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 198-215
- 23 Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard*, "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 215-229
25 **Fall Break, No Classes**
- 29 **2nd Paper due on Monday: Give it to the secretary in the Philosophy Department main office (Peabody Hall, Room 107) by 4:00 p.m.**
- 30 Nietzsche: *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, Preface and sections 1-3 (pp. 1-22)
- Nov. 1 Nietzsche: *Advantage and Disadvantage*, sections 4-7 (pp. 22-43)
- 6 Nietzsche: *Advantage and Disadvantage*, sections 8-10 (pp. 43-64)
8 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 1-39
- 13 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 39-74
15 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 75-106
- 20 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 107-139
22 **Thanksgiving, No Classes**
- 27 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 140-183
29 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 183-221
- Dec. 4 **No Class** (UGA operates on a Friday class schedule)
6 Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, pp. 222-240