COURSE SYLLABUS:

19TH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY: IDEALISM AS MODERNISM

LECTURE NOTES:

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais, Chair
Philosophy Department
Kalamazoo College
Humphrey House #201
Telephone # 337-7076

Offices Hours:

1) Mon. 11:30 - 1:30.
2) Tues. 11:30- 12:30.
3) By Appointment.

COURSE GOALS:
This course introduces students to 19th-century, Continental-European philosophy by focusing on a single issue: namely the problem of how humans develop personal identities in social settings. We will explore how Kant, Schiller, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche conceive of "autonomous" or "free" self-determination -- the education of the self, if you will. These philosophers offer quite different accounts of the role of reason, will, imagination, skills and interpersonal relations in the formation of self.

EVALUATION:
Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, vocabulary quizzes, midterm examinations and a final paper.

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<tr>
<th>TYPE OF EVALUATION</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation: Seminar presentations, classroom discussion and email correspondence</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examinations</td>
<td>2 @ 20% = 40%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>5 @ 5% = 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (10-15 pages)</td>
<td>1 @ 25% = 25%</td>
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POLICIES:
Students are expected to follow the reading schedule and to come to class prepared to actively discuss the texts they have read. More specifically, students must bring their texts to class with marginal notes, highlighted or underlined passages of particular importance, and pages marked where they have encountered difficulties in understanding the material. Quizzes offer students the opportunity to identify and to clarify central terms and concepts. The midterm assignments allow students to write essays on key philosophical issues and arguments, and the final paper offers students the opportunity to respond in depth to a single topic. The final paper is due on the day scheduled for the final examination. 3 unexcused absences will result in a full grade reduction. Late papers will be marked down a half grade for the first day and a full grade for the second day. All work must be turned in at the end of term, unless alternative assignments have been given by the instructor.

TEXTS:


GERMAN ACROSS THE CURRICULUM COMPONENT: Selected texts may be read in the German original. GAC students will be given alternative assignments and weekly tutorials.

BRIDGE READING COMPONENT: Students interested in linking course material to their major course of study will be given special readings and assignments. Tutorial meetings are required, and the final paper must be completed in consultation with professor in home department.

Psychology: Students interested in exploring the philosophical foundations of developmental psychology will be given readings that link the course to the works of Jean Piaget, Lawrence Kohlberg and Carol Gilligan. Students interested in issues of identity formation in self-psychology and psychoanalysis will be given a different set of readings. See Psychology Bridge-Readings (Philosophy Homepage).

Political Science: Students interested in examining the philosophical roots of current debates in political theory and feminist philosophy will
be given readings by contemporary political thinkers who analyze modern politics in the light of 19th-century philosophers.

Religion: Students interested in a fuller examination of Kierkegaard's theology in contemporary discussions will be given readings that discuss Kierkegaard's critique of secular identity formation.

READING SCHEDULE

1. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: THE KANTIAN LEGACY:

WEEK ONE

TUESDAY:
1. Introductory Lecture: "Kant's Transcendental Idealism."

THURSDAY:
1. Pinkard, Introduction (pp. 1-19).

WEEK TWO

TUESDAY:
2. Quiz #1.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MOVIE: American Beauty:

THURSDAY:
1. Schiller, Letter One to Twelve.
2. Quiz #2.

WEEK THREE

TUESDAY:
1. Schiller, Letters Thirteen to Twenty-Seven. (Cont.).

THURSDAY:
1. Schiller (end).
2. Quiz #3.

WEEK FOUR

TUESDAY:
2. Hegel, "Philosophy Must Become Scientific." (pp. 1-29).

WEDNESDAY EVENING MOVIE: Waterland.

THURSDAY:
1. Hegel, "The idea of a Phenomenology of the Spirit" (pp. 29-57).
2. Pinkard, "Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit" (pp. 214 - 246).
3. Quiz #4.

WEEK FIVE

TUESDAY:
1. Hegel, "Truth" & "Conclusion" (pp. 57-113).
2. First Midterm Examination.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MOVIE: The Collector.
THURSDAY:
1. Hegel, “The Struggle of Master and Slave” [Handout].

4. MARX'S CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM: THE MATERIALIST ACCOUNT OF SELF-FORMATION:

WEEK SIX

TUESDAY:

THURSDAY:

5. KIERKEGAARD'S ATTACK UPON AUTO-TELC ACCOUNTS OF IDENTITY FORMATION: "RESTING TRANSPARENTLY IN ANOTHER":

WEEK SEVEN

TUESDAY:

WEDNESDAY EVENING MOVIE: Babette's Feast.

THURSDAY:
1. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling, "Preliminary Expectoration" & "Problema 1" (pp. 27-68).

WEEK EIGHT

TUESDAY:
1. Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling (end.)

6. NIETZSCHE'S GENEALOGICAL "UNMASKING" OF IDEALISM AND MATERIALISM: THE SELF AS THE WILL TO POWER:

THURSDAY:
1. The Genealogy of Morals, Preface & "Good and Evil, "Good and Bad (pp. 1-57).

TUESDAY: WEEK NINE

THURSDAY: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

TUESDAY: WEEK TEN
1. Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil (pp. 95-119)
2. Closing Comments.
3. Student Evaluations.

FINALS WEEK