

## **Hegel L6/L7**

**2016-7**

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In this course, we explore the philosophy of G.F.W. Hegel. We will spend half the course reading excerpts from Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, the book he presented as the 'introduction' to his philosophical system. We will go on to consider material from Hegel's ethics, his political philosophy, his aesthetics, and his philosophy of history. The course includes a combination of primary and secondary literature and will seek to provide a comprehensive introduction to this rich, but difficult thinker.

**Lectures:** The lectures for this module will be in \*\*\*\* on Thursdays at 6PM

**Seminars:** The seminars for this module will be in \*\*\*\* on Thursdays at 7PM

### **Assessment:**

Essays (BA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of one presubmitted essay of around 3000 words (max 3200). This essay will be due at the beginning of Term 3. For the exact essay deadline and further details, please consult the BA Handbook. A list of questions will be available on Moodle.

Essays (MA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of one presubmitted essay of around 3500 words (max 3700). This essay will be due at the beginning of Term 3. For the exact essay deadline and further details, please consult the MA Handbook. A list of questions will be available on Moodle.

### **Moodle:**

Electronic copies of certain course materials will be available through Moodle, at <http://moodle.bbk.ac.uk>. You will need your ITS login name and password to enter.

### **Preliminary Reading:**

For a general introduction to Hegel, read Paul Redding, "Hegel," in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and Frederick Beiser, *Hegel* (Routledge, 2005).

### **Main Texts:**

By Hegel:

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. Miller (Oxford, 1976).

There is also a good translation of the *Phenomenology* by Terry Pinkard. At present this is unpublished and available online: <https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/21288399/Phenomenology%20translation%20English%20German.pdf>

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, trans. Nisbet, (Cambridge, 1991).

Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History: Introduction*, trans. Nisbet (Cambridge, 1975).

Hegel, *Aesthetics*, Vol. I and II, trans. Knox (Oxford, 1975).

Secondary Literature (Recommended, not Required:)

I would recommend buying Robert Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit* (Routledge, 2002). This is secondary reading, and thus not required, but will be very useful for understanding the text of the *Phenomenology*. Only a limited amount from this book can be put on Moodle.

Insofar as possible given copyright restrictions, further secondary readings will also be made available on Moodle. (At least one of those listed below will be available for each week.) It is not necessary to read all of these, but they will be helpful, particularly if you plan to write an essay on the topic in question. Feel free to contact me for further reading suggestions.

### **A few notes about reading Hegel:**

Hegel is notoriously difficult to read. His prose is frequently unclear, and he uses a great deal of obscure jargon. Do not try to understand every sentence before moving on to the next one. You will end up very frustrated if you do.

For each week, I have given expository secondary reading to help guide you. It may be better to read this *before* reading Hegel, but don't make it a substitute for reading the original. Our discussion in seminar will focus on the original texts.

Also, avoid the section-by-section "summary" provided at the end of the Miller translation of the *Phenomenology*. This is impenetrable mumbo jumbo. It will not advance your understanding of the text in the slightest, and it will probably hamper it.

### **Week By Week Summary:**

#### Week 1:

#### **Hegel's Project**

Main reading:

Hegel, "Introduction" to the *Phenomenology of Spirit*, THEN the "Preface" to the *Phenomenology of Spirit*

{Read these in this reverse order; the latter is long and extremely opaque, the former more approachable as a start}.

Secondary reading:

M. Forster, *Hegel's Idea of a Phenomenology of Spirit*, (Chicago, 1998), Ch. 2

R. Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit* (Routledge, 2002), 1-30

#### Week 2:

#### **Sense Certainty, Perception, and Idealism**

Main reading:

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, § 90-130

Secondary Reading:

R. Pippin, *Hegel's Idealism* (Cambridge, 1989), Ch. 6

R. Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit*, p. 43-59

B. Longuenesse, *Hegel's Critique of Metaphysics*, Ch. 1

#### Week 3:

#### **Lordship and Bondage**

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §166-196

Secondary reading:

A. Kojève, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, trans. Nichols (Cornell, 1969), Ch. 2

R. Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit*, 71-84

Week 4:

### **Stoicism, Scepticism, and the Unhappy Consciousness**

Main reading:

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §197-230

Secondary reading:

R. Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit*, 85-96

T. Pinkard, *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason*, (Cambridge, 1996), 63-78

Week 5:

### **Spirit & the Ethical Life / Review of Dialectical Method**

Main Reading:

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §438-443; 455-463; 484-489

Secondary reading:

C. Taylor, *Hegel*, (Cambridge, 1975), Ch. 3

M. Hardimon, *Hegel's Social Philosophy: The Project of Reconciliation* (Cambridge, 1994), 42-52

M. Forster, "Hegel's Dialectical Method" in the *Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, ed. Frederick Beiser (Cambridge, 1993).

Week 6:

### **Ethics**

Main Reading:

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, §105-157

Secondary Reading:

A. Wood, *Hegel's Ethical Thought* (Cambridge, 1990), Ch. 9

D. Knowles, *Hegel and the Philosophy of Right* (Routledge, 2002), Ch. 9

Week 7:

### **Political Philosophy: Freedom and the State**

Main Reading:

Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, "Preface"; §4-21, 257-9

Secondary Reading:

F. Neuhouser, *Foundations of Hegel's Social Theory* (Harvard, 2000), Ch. 1

A. Patten, *Hegel's Idea of Freedom*, (Oxford, 1999), Ch. 4

M. Hardimon, *Hegel's Social Philosophy: The Project of Reconciliation* (Cambridge, 1994), 52-83

D. Knowles, *Hegel and the Philosophy of Right* (Routledge, 2002), Ch. 13

Week 8:

## **History**

### Main Reading:

Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History: Introduction*, p. 27-44

### Secondary Reading:

R. Geuss, "Art and Theodicy" in his *Morality, Culture, and History* (Cambridge, 1999).

J. McCarney, *Hegel on History*, (Routledge, 2000), Ch. 12

### Week 9:

## **Art**

### Main Reading:

Hegel, "Introduction" to his *Aesthetics*, Vol. I and II, trans. Knox (Oxford, 1975)

### Secondary reading:

R. Pippin, "The Absence of Aesthetics in Hegel's Aesthetics" in the *Cambridge Companion to Hegel and Nineteenth Century Philosophy*, ed. F. Beiser (Cambridge, 2008).

S. Houlgate, "Hegel's Aesthetics," in the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* online

### Week 10:

## **Religion, Philosophy, and Absolute Knowledge**

### Main Reading:

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §672-683; 788-808

### Secondary Reading:

B. Longuenesse, *Hegel's Critique of Metaphysics*, Ch. 5

T. Pinkard, *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason*, (Cambridge, 1996), 221-68

R. Stern, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit*, 183-201.

R. Pippin, *Hegel's Idealism*, Ch.7