

HUMANITIES 4000 (2010-2011)

Approximate Schedule of Themes and Readings for the Fall Semester and Other Important Information

NB: Every effort will be made to adhere to this schedule. But because the flow of questions and discussion cannot always be perfectly anticipated in advance, there may be divergences.

Introductory Remarks. Sept. 9. Classical holism. Modernity's break with classical holism. The Philosophy of Freedom/German Idealism as an attempt to restore classical holism on the basis of modern autonomy and liberty.

Nature versus Freedom: The Origins of German Idealism

September 14. Plato, Symposium, first half (to speech of Socrates).

September 16. Plato, Symposium, second half (from speech of Socrates to end).

September 21. Rousseau, First and Second Discourses.

September 23. Rousseau, Social Contract Book 1, Book 2, chs. 2,7; Kant, Metaphysics of Morals, part 1.

September 28. Kant, parts 2,3.

September 30. Schiller, Letters on the Aesthetic Education of Man, letters 1,2,13,20,21,22.

The Hegelian Absolute and the Science of Spirit

October 5. Hegel, On Love; Introduction to the Philosophy of History.

October 7. Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit. Miller translation (Oxford). Readings are by section number, not page number. Preface, 1-41; Introduction (entire).

October 12. Phenomenology. The Truth of Self-Certainty, 166-177; Lordship and Bondage, 178-196; Stoicism, 197-201.

October 14. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. NO CLASS.

October 19. Hegel, Phenomenology. Skepticism, 202-205; Unhappy Consciousness, 206-230; Spirit, 438-443.

October 21. Hegel, Phenomenology. Ethical World, 446-463; Ethical Action, 464-476; Right, 477-483; Self-estrangement, 484-486.

October 26. Hegel, Phenomenology. Absolute Freedom and Terror, 582-596; Forgiveness, 670-671; Religion, 672-683.

The First Assault on Hegelian Idealism: Marx and Marxism

October 28. Marx, On the Jewish Question; For a Ruthless Critique of Everything Existing.

November 2. Marx, The Communist Manifesto.

The Second Assault on Hegelian Idealism: Nietzsche and the World as Will to Power

November 4. Nietzsche, Birth of Tragedy (selections TBA); The Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life; The Three Metamorphoses (from Thus Spake Zarathustra); Beyond Good and Evil, Preface, Parts 1-2.

November 9. Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil, parts 3,5,6-9.

The Third Assault on Hegelian Idealism: Heidegger, Existentialism and Post-modernism

November 11. Nietzsche, concluding remarks. Heidegger, An Introduction to Metaphysics, part 1.

November 16. Heidegger, Introduction to Metaphysics, parts 2-4.

November 18. Heidegger, The Origin of the Artwork; Letter on Humanism.

November 23. Heidegger, An Essay Concerning Technology.

November 25. Same themes continued.

November 30. Concluding Remarks

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Term papers: 15 pages double-spaced typed. To be submitted Monday December 6. Topics will be provided shortly. E-submissions are not acceptable.

Take-home exam: In accordance with University regulations, the take-home exam will be handed out at the last lecture class. It will be due on the last day of the exam period, 12 noon at my office, Loeb D691. The questions will cover the entire first semester of readings and themes, with some degree of choice. E-submissions are not acceptable.

Presentations: Students will be asked to make presentations in the discussion groups, on an equally rotating basis, on the readings for that week. The mechanics of this will take some time to work out. On average, we will aim to have two presentations at each discussion group. Occasionally, more may have to be scheduled to give everyone an opportunity to present. Every effort will be made to enable students to present on the readings of their choice, but some flexibility will be necessary to fit everyone in. Students are encouraged to review the readings and volunteer sooner rather than later if there is a particular text you would like to present on.

Attendance Policy: Attendance of lectures and discussion groups is obligatory, not optional.