

**Fall 2023 – Carleton University**  
**PHIL 3005: 19th Century Philosophy**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, Paterson Hall 201, 2:35pm-4:00pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kyla Bruff

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**Office hours:** Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm in Paterson Hall, room 3A56 (or by appointment)

**Course Delivery:** In person.

## **I. Description:**

Kant's Copernican Revolution in philosophy radically changed the way philosophers conceived of the human subject's relationship to the outside world. It also altered the scope of philosophically responsible metaphysical speculation. It was no longer clear that human beings could reliably deliver knowledge of the divine and the nature of reality. Yet many thinkers after Kant, in particular the German Idealists, did not give up on such metaphysical questions, instead intertwining the subjective development of human consciousness with the objective development of reality. The attempts to describe the processes of subjective consciousness and those of objective reality as inextricably linked gave birth to new philosophical approaches to history, politics, and existence.

At the center of the subject-object divide in the 19th century is the question of human freedom. Can free human activity alter the course of history? To what extent? How does this affect what we can hope for? Are any elements of history determined? How does human freedom relate to the development and structure of reality? Which political and moral goals we can set for ourselves?

In this course, we will first explore two different approaches to human freedom in relation to metaphysics: (1) Hegelian dialectics, and (2) Schelling's metaphysics of freedom and theory of divine personality. Each will bring us to a different view of progress and reconceptualization of the role of individual freedom in history.

From here, we will turn our attention to two different lines of development in 19<sup>th</sup> century political philosophy. First, we will first explore the early Marx's view of the human being and the abolition of private property, as grounded in a notion of historical materialism influenced by Hegel. We will also examine how Marx's historical materialism influenced Angela Davis' analysis of the role of capitalism in women's oppression and her critique of 'bourgeois feminism.' We will then juxtapose Mills' view of individual liberty in society to Marx's theory of communism.

In our final unit, we will focus on the theme of the freedom of the will in existentialism. Beginning with Schopenhauer's analysis of the will, which was influenced by Schelling, we will ask: can the will find any satisfaction in life or are we destined to a life of suffering under the insatiability of the will's desire? We will then turn to Nietzsche, who was famously critical of Schopenhauer, to explore whether life should be seen as a comedy, in which we can laugh and enjoy living. Would such an approach to life require that we free ourselves of commitments to rationality and to God? We will end the course with a return to the question of the possible reconciliation of the human being with God through Kierkegaard's treatment of the concepts of despair and love in the context of the relation of the free finite being to the infinite.

By the end of the course, you will understand how these different political and existential directions were developed out of metaphysical worldviews that featured analyses of human freedom, the concept of the will, and the relation of the particular human being to the infinite.

**II. Preclusions:** Additional credit for PHIL 3007

**III. Prerequisite(s):** 0.5 credit in philosophy and second-year standing in a philosophy program, or permission of the Department.

**IV. Learning Outcomes:**

- to understand the metaphysics grounding the different approaches to history, politics and existence in 19<sup>th</sup> century philosophy
- to be able to critically analyse, relate and juxtapose different approaches to metaphysics, politics and existentialism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- to identify the relevance for 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century philosophy and contemporary questions

**V. Course readings and texts:**

All required readings for this course will be made available to you online in Brightspace. You are not required to purchase any course texts.

If you do want to purchase a physical copy of any of the books in which our reading selections are found, I have included Amazon links below each reading. ***This is not required.***

### **Unit I: Metaphysics**

**Introduction and paragraphs 79-81 in Hegel, *The Encyclopaedia Logic: Part I (Lesser Logic)* of the *Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences with Zusätze*, trans. Geraets, Suchting, Harris, published by Hackett.**

<https://www.amazon.ca/Encyclopaedia-Logic-Philosophical-Sciences-Zustze/dp/0872200701/>

**Chapter 3 (“Freedom, Individual and the State,” pages 19-29 only) in Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History: With Selections from the “Philosophy of Right”*** (Hackett Classics), trans. Leo Rauch, published by Hackett.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Introduction-Philosophy-History-G-Hegel/dp/0872200566/>

**Pages 520-523, the section on “Lordship and Bondage,” in Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit***, trans. A.V. Miller, published by Oxford University Press

<https://www.amazon.ca/Phenomenology-Spirit-G-W-Hegel/dp/0198245971>

**Pages 23-31 and 68-71 in Schelling, *Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom* (Freedom Essay)**, trans. Jeff Love and Johannes Schmidt, published by SUNY

<https://www.amazon.ca/Philosophical-Investigations-Essence-Human-Freedom/dp/0791468747/>

## **Unit II: Politics**

**Preface and final chapter (“Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole”) in Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844***, trans. Martin Milligan, published by Prometheus Books.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Philosophic-Manuscripts-Communist-Manifesto-1988-03-01/dp/B01JQ3YD86>

**“Women and Capitalism: Dialectics of Oppression and Liberation” by Angela Davis in *The Angela Y. Davis Reader***, Blackwell Publishers, Ltd.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Angela-Y-Davis-Reader/dp/0631203613>

**Chapter 1, pages 7-30, in Mill, *On Liberty***, available free online at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=3xARAAAAYAAJ>

## **Unit III: Existentialism**

**§ 29, pages 162-165, and § 36, pages 184-194 in Schopenhauer, *World as Will and Representation***, trans. E.F. J Payne, Dover Publications.

<https://www.amazon.ca/World-Will-Representation-Vol/dp/0486217612/>

**Book 1, Aphorism 1 of Nietzsche, *The Gay Science***, ed. Bernard Williams and trans. Josefine Nauckhoff, Cambridge University Press

<https://www.amazon.ca/Nietzsche-Science-Prelude-German-Appendix/dp/0521636450/>

**Pages 3-15, “Zarathustra’s Prologue,” in Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra***, ed. Adrian Del Caro and Robert Pippin, trans. Adrian Del Caro, Cambridge University Press.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Nietzsche-Spoke-Zarathustra-Robert-Pippin/dp/0521602610/>

**Pages 13-21 and 42-74 of Kierkegaard, *Sickness Unto Death***, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Eda H. Hong, Princeton University Press.

<https://www.amazon.ca/Kierkegaards-Writings-XIX-Psychological-Exposition/dp/0691020280/>

**VI. Calendar description:** European philosophy in the 19th century. May include Hegel, Marx, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Mill. Precludes additional credit for PHIL 3007.

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 credit in philosophy and second-year standing in a philosophy program, or permission of the Department.

**VII. Course calendar and overview:**

Date	Themes, Deadlines & Feedback	Required Reading
Sept. 7	Course Introduction	None
Sept. 12	Reason and actuality	Hegel, Lesser Logic, "Introduction," sections 1-9, pp. 24-33
Sept. 14	Hegel's Dialectics	Hegel, Lesser Logic, "Introduction," sections 10-18, pp. 34-42
Sept. 19	Hegel's Dialectics	Hegel: Lesser Logic: "More Precise Conception and Division of the Logic," sections 79-81, pp. 125-131
Sept. 21	The master-slave dialectic	Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit, pp. Pages 111-119, the section on "Lordship and Bondage."
Sept. 26	The means and end of history	Hegel, Introduction to the Philosophy of History, Ch. 3, "Freedom, the Individual, and the State," pp. 19-29
Sept. 27	<b>Paper 1 (Hegel's dialectic) due (11:59pm)</b>	
Sept. 28	The definition of freedom	Schelling, Freedom Essay, pp. 23-31
Oct. 3	Schelling's metaphysics and critique of Hegel	Schelling, Freedom Essay, pp. 68-71
Oct. 5	<b>Paper 1 returned with feedback</b> Between Feuerbach and Hegel: humanism, naturalism and dialectics	Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, "Preface," pp. 13-18
Oct. 10	<b>In-class blog post on Schelling</b> Materialism, negation, affirmation, and alienation	Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, "Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole," pp. 141-150

Oct. 12	<b>ASYNCHRONOUS LECTURE: No in-person class on this date.</b> The natural human being and self-consciousness in the context of Hegel	Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, “Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole,” pp. 150-168
Oct. 17	<b>Blog post 1 returned</b> The reception of Marx by feminist thinkers	Closing discussion on Marx; Introduction to Marxist Feminism (no reading)
Oct. 19	Capitalism as the source of women’s oppression	Angela Davis, “Women and Capitalism: Dialectics of Oppression and Liberation,” pp. 161-173
Oct. 24 & 26	<b>NO CLASSES – MIDTERM BREAK</b>	
Oct. 30	Women’s labour, the structure of the family, and the critique of bourgeois feminism	Angela Davis, “Women and Capitalism: Dialectics of Oppression and Liberation,” pp. 174-186
Nov. 2	<b>In-class blog post on Angela Davis</b> Introduction to the relation of liberty to authority	Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 1: “Introductory,” pp. 7-21
Nov. 7	Mill on the legitimate limitation of individual freedom	
Nov. 9	Three types of liberty	Mill, On Liberty, Chapter 1: “Introductory,” pp. 21-31
Nov. 14	<b>Paper 2 (Political Philosophy) due (11:59pm); Blog post 2 returned</b> The nature of the will	Schopenhauer, World as Will and Representation, § 29, pp. 162-165
Nov. 16	Can the will ever be satisfied?	Schopenhauer, World as Will and Representation, § 36, pp. 184-194
Nov. 21	Approaching one’s own life as a comedy	Nietzsche, The Gay Science, Book 1, Aphorism 1, “The Teachers of the Object of Existence.” Pp.
Nov. 23	Challenging systematicity and reflection through an experimental lifestyle and pushing oneself to the extreme	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, “Zarathustra’s Prologue,” pp. 1-9  (recommended reading: pp. xxi-xxiii of the Introduction)
Nov. 28	<b>Nov. 28 - Paper 2 returned</b>	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, “Zarathustra’s Prologue,” pp. 9-16
Nov. 30	Death and eternal life; introduction to despair	Kierkegaard, Sickness Unto Death, Introduction, pp. 8-9, and “A. Despair Is the Sickness unto Death,” pp. 13-21

Dec. 5	The types of despair: (a) despair to be unconscious of having a self (b) despair in not wanting to be oneself	Kierkegaard, Sickness Unto Death, pp. 42-67
Dec. 7	The three types of despair continued: (c) despair to will to be oneself  Not being in despair is reconciling the finite and the infinite; the self with love.  Course conclusion	Kierkegaard, Sickness Unto Death, pp. 67-74
Dec. 8	<b>15-minute oral interview on a topic in existentialism</b>	

### VIII. Evaluation

The evaluation for this course includes three papers and two ‘blog posts’/journal entries:

- **Paper 1** on Hegel’s dialectic, 1500 words, **25% (due Sept. 28)**
- **Paper 2** on Political Philosophy, 1500 words, **30% (due Nov. 16)**
- **Oral interview** on Existentialism, **15% (Dec. 8)**
- **Blog post 1** on Schelling’s concept of freedom applied to an example from your life – **10% (written in class on October 10)**
- **Blog post 2** on the relation of Angela Davis’ Marxist feminism to a contemporary issue – **10% (written in class on November 2)**
- **Class participation, including one online post between Oct. 12-16 – 5%**

All papers are to be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12, 1.5 line spacing with a title. Please submit your paper as a .doc or .docx file.

Make sure all sources are cited in line with Carleton’s Academic Integrity guidelines, listed here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

The blog posts/journal entries are two hand-written, double spaced pages each and are intended to help you engage with the ideas presented in a practical way. They do not require any formal structuring and should be written as if you were posting them as a blog online or as an opinion piece for a newspaper or popular website. The blog posts will be private, only read by me.

**Attendance is 10%** of your course mark. You are expected to attend every class with the reading done, ready to discuss the material. For the asynchronous lecture on October 12, there will be an online discussion to which **everyone is required to contribute at least one post** between October 12 and October 16. If you miss no more than two classes in the semester, were prepared and involved in discussions, you will be awarded all 10 marks. For each additional unexcused absence, 2% is subtracted from your attendance grade. If you participate in no discussions, you cannot exceed a 5% participation grade. Please speak to me for accommodation requests regarding participating in discussions.

All essays are to be submitted in the Dropbox online via Brightspace and are due at **11:59 pm on the due date**. Late papers will be penalized by 5% per day for a maximum of four days.

You must submit all three papers and two blog posts in order to pass the course.

## **IX. Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2023-2025):**

### **Assignments:**

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

### **Evaluation:**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than three working days of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

### **Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

### **Plagiarism:**

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](#) for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and

impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for Student Activities:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

### **Important Dates:**

- Sept. 6      Classes start.
- Sept. 19     Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
- Sept. 30     Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
- Oct. 9       Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Oct. 23-27   Fall Break – no classes.
- Nov. 24     Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
- Dec. 8       Last day of fall term classes. ***Classes follow a Monday schedule.*** Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.
- Dec. 10-22   Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
- Dec. 22     All take-home examinations are due.
- Jan. 8       Classes begin.

- Jan. 19 Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
- Jan. 31 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
- Feb. 19 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Feb. 19-23 Winter Break – no classes.
- Mar. 15 Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.
- Mar. 27 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
- Mar. 29 Statutory holiday. University closed.
- Apr. 10 Last day of two-term and winter term classes. ***Classes follow a Friday schedule.*** Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
- Apr. 11-12 No classes or examinations take place.
- Apr. 13-25 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
- Apr. 25 All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:  
[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)  
 520-2110

Registrar's Office:  
[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)  
 520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:  
[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)  
 520-7850

Writing Services:  
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>  
 520-3822

MacOdrum Library  
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>  
 520-2735