

Syllabus: PHIL 3005  
 Nineteenth-Century Philosophy: Self and World, Reason and Will  
 Winter 2018  
 Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:05-11:25AM  
 Southam Hall 501

Instructor: Simon Gurofsky  
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 Office: TBD  
 Office hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11:30AM-2:30PM (tentative)

### Description

We will read some key works of continental European philosophy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Our narrative will be framed by the question: What is a human being? At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Fichte presented an account on which each human being is a harmonious unity of reason and will, free, rational, and at home in a world constitutively congenial to beings like us. Yet less than a hundred years later, the German Idealist project that Fichte had initiated had largely collapsed. And that process of collapse terminated in Nietzsche's arguing that the human being is primarily will, and that, far from being at home in the world, modern humanity's condition is diseased and alienated. Our goals will be, first, to reconstruct the arguments that lead from Fichte's optimistic Enlightenment rationalism to Nietzsche's decidedly more dour view of the modern human condition and, second, to see what those arguments can tell us about how we should conceive of the human being today.

Along the way, we shall consider a variety of philosophical topics, perhaps including self-consciousness, intentionality, objectivity, idealism and realism, the basis of morality, suffering, cruelty, and death.

### Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic, Due Dates, Events</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 – January 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and review of Kant	<b>Optional:</b> Kant, various readings
Week 2 – January 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Fichte and the Science of Knowledge <b>Reflection due Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Fichte, “Concerning the Concept of the <i>Wissenschaftslehre</i> ” (2) Fichte, “All consciousness is conditioned by our immediate consciousness of ourselves” <b>Optional:</b> (1) Fichte, <i>The Science of Knowledge</i> , First Introduction (2) Fichte, <i>The Science of Knowledge</i> , Second Introduction
Week 3 – January 24 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Fichte and the Science of Knowledge continued <b>Reflection due Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Fichte, <i>The Science of Knowledge</i> , Preface and Part 1
Week 4 – January 31 <sup>st</sup> & February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Fichte's practical philosophy <b>Reflection due Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Fichte, <i>The System of Ethics</i> , Introduction and Part 1 <b>Optional:</b> (1) Fichte, <i>The System of Ethics</i> , further readings (2) Fichte, <i>Foundations of Natural Right</i> , excerpts
Week 5 – February 7 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Schelling and objective idealism <b>Reflection due Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Schelling, <i>System of Transcendental Idealism</i> , Forward and Introduction (2) Schelling, “Presentation of My System of Philosophy” (3) Schelling, “Further Presentations from the System of Philosophy” <b>Optional:</b> (1) Schelling, “Of the I as Principle of Philosophy”

		(2) Schelling, "Treatise Explicatory of the Idealism in the Science of Knowledge" (3) Schelling, "On the True Concept of Philosophy of Nature and the Correct Way of Solving Its Problems"
Week 6 – February 14 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Hegel and absolute idealism <b>(1) Reflection due Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b> <b>(2) FIRST EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 16TH AT 11:59pm</b>	<b>Required:</b> Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , Preface <b>Optional:</b> Hegel, <i>The Difference between Fichte's and Schelling's System of Philosophy</i>
Week 7 – <b>No class</b>	Winter break	
Week 8 – February 28 <sup>th</sup> & March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hegel continued <b>Reflection due Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , further readings
Week 9 – March 7 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Schopenhauer on self and will <b>Reflection due Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , vol. 1, §§19-23 (2) Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , vol. 2, "On the Primacy of the Will in Self-Consciousness"
Week 10 – March 14 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Schopenhauer's pessimism and life-philosophy <b>Reflection due Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , vol. 1, §§56-61, 65-69 (2) Schopenhauer, <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , vol. 2, "On the Vanity and Suffering of Life"
Week 11 – March 21 <sup>st</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Kierkegaard <b>Reflection due Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 5PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Kierkegaard, <i>The Sickness unto Death</i> , Preface, Introduction, and Part One
Week 12 – March 28 <sup>th</sup> ( <b>no class March 30<sup>th</sup></b> )	Nietzsche on morality <b>(1) Reflection due Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b> <b>(2) SECOND EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE MARCH 30TH AT 11:59PM</b>	<b>Required:</b> Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , First Essay <b>Optional:</b> Nietzsche, "Schopenhauer as Educator"
Week 13 – April 4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Nietzsche on morality <b>(1) Reflection due Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5PM</b> <b>(2) Final paper topics distributed April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Required:</b> Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Second and Third Essays
Week 14 – April 11 <sup>th</sup> ( <b>no class April 13<sup>th</sup></b> )	Nietzsche conclusion and course retrospective <b>(1) No reflection due this week</b> <b>(2) Last day to propose final paper topics to me</b>	No new reading
Exam period – April 14 <sup>th</sup> -26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE THURSDAY APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> – I absolutely cannot accept work later than this date, so don't wait until 11:59PM and risk the date flipping over to midnight the next day.</b>	

## Where to Find the Readings

All readings are available on Ares. Note that some readings are required, others merely optional (specified below).

## Evaluation

**NB: All assignments are to be submitted through cuLearn.** See below.

1) Attendance and participation (15% of final grade). Students are expected to attend every lecture, to have read the material assigned and to be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully. However, students may miss one lecture, no questions asked. Beyond that, if you need to miss a class, you'll need to provide me with a compelling explanation **in writing** beforehand and to receive a **written acknowledgement** from me. For every class missed without compelling explanation beyond the first, this mark will drop 2% from its 15% starting point (to 13%, 11%, etc., down to 0).

2) Weekly reflections (15% of final grade). At **5PM every Wednesday** beginning in second week, students shall submit 300-400-word reflections on some element of the reading for that week. It can be about something that interested you, that provoked you, that you did not understand, that you disagreed with, etc., so long as it shows substantial engagement with the texts. Grading is for completion only and is similar to that for attendance above: You can miss one reflection no questions asked, but thereafter, you'll need to provide me with a compelling explanation **in writing** beforehand and to receive a **written acknowledgement** from me. For every reflection you miss without compelling explanation, this part of your final grade drops by 2% (to 13%, 11%, etc., down to 0). What you write in your reflections will often bear on the contents of my lectures, so **reflections cannot be submitted late.**

3) Exegetical essays (1 x 15% + 1 x 20% = 35% of final grade). Twice during the semester, students shall submit papers of no less than 1300 and no more than 1600 words explaining a passage or argument from a work assigned in class. These papers will be primarily exegetical, meaning that your task will be to explain the passage or argument in question as clearly and precisely as you are able. These will be written in response to set topics, distributed by me no less than two full weeks before the due date. You are not to engage with secondary literature in these papers.

4) Final essay (35% of final grade). Students shall submit a final paper of no less than 2000 and no more than 2500 words on the **final day of the exam period (April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018)**. Topics will be distributed no later than one week before the end of term. However, students **may** write on a topic of their choosing **provided they arrange a meeting with me to discuss it by the last day of term (April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018)**. This paper will have both an **exegetical** and an **evaluative** component, meaning that you will not only be asked to explain a text but also (1) to consider what you take to be a compelling objection to the text you've explained, and (2) to take a stand on whether the objection succeeds or fails and to make an argument for that stance. For this paper, you are not required to engage with secondary literature, but you may feel free to do so, and I am happy to make recommendations.

## cuLearn

This course will have a cuLearn page. A variety of resources may be made available through the cuLearn site, including some readings for the course. You can access your cuLearn account by going to [www.carleton.ca/culearn](http://www.carleton.ca/culearn) and entering your MyCarletonOne username and password.

Students will be fully responsible for reading and responding appropriately to all information distributed to students through the cuLearn course page. Information provided on this page will be considered to have been provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

**All assignments are to be submitted through cuLearn.**

## **Additional Policies**

**Assignment formatting:** All assignments should be submitted in .docx or .pdf, and should have on the first page:

- 1) Student name
- 2) Student number
- 3) Course number and section
- 4) Instructor's name
- 5) Word count

**Assignment submission:** All assignments are to be submitted via CULearn. All assignments are due by 11:59PM on the due date **except for reflections**, which are due Wednesdays at 5PM (see schedule above).

**Electronic devices:** All cellphones are to be silenced or turned off and put away during class. Laptops are **not** permitted in class **unless** you require academic accommodation; if you do, see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Extensions/late assignments:** For the two **exegetical essays**, extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., documented illness or family emergency) and only if the extension is requested in writing and acknowledged by me **before** the assignment due date. Otherwise, for every day late, you will lose one third of a letter grade (A+ to A, A to A-, etc.) from your mark for that assignment. For the **final paper** and for **weekly reflections**, **NO EXTENSIONS/LATE SUBMISSIONS ARE POSSIBLE**. For all assignments, failure to submit an assignment will result in a grade of 0.

**Missing assignments and corrupt files:** Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If an assignment is lost at any point or the file containing it is corrupted, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately upon request.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

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

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy 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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**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 scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting

accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **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.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> 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.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter 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 two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735