

Syllabus: PHIL 3005  
Nineteenth-Century Philosophy  
Winter 2020  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:05PM-7:25PM  
Location: Southam Hall 517

Instructor: Prof. Simon R. Gurofsky  
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Office: Paterson Hall 3A54  
Office hours: Fridays 3PM-6PM  
Syllabus version: 2020/01/06

**NB: This syllabus is subject to periodic revision, and the most up-to-date version is always the one on cuLearn. See section 5 below.**

## 1. Description

We will read some key works of continental European philosophy in the 19<sup>th</sup> (and a bit of the 20<sup>th</sup>) century, with selections from Fichte, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and de Beauvoir. Our narrative will be framed by the question: What is a human being? In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, a popular way of thinking in Europe known as German Idealism tended to answer that question *optimistically*: The human being is essentially rational and dwells in a world that, for all its apparent difficulties, lends itself to knowledge and a happy and ethical life. Yet less than a hundred years later, the German Idealist project had largely collapsed, replaced by views on which, for instance, a human being is primarily a non-rational will and modern humanity's place in the world is precarious, diseased, or alienated. The overriding goal of the course is to try to understand that development in a way that is *philosophical* rather than (speaking loosely) *sociological*—that is, as an intelligible and compelling series of arguments from which we can still learn. To that end, the course will emphasize close and charitable reading of primary texts, with a view not to toppling disagreeable positions but to grasping why each position is one that a reasonable person could find attractive.

## 2. Schedule

NB: Once readings on Ares are posted, I will list them by ID number as they appear there. **If you are in any doubt about which document is the correct one, go by the Ares ID number.** And in any case where the document on Ares is longer than what is assigned below, go with what is assigned below.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic, Due Dates, Events</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Week 1 – January 6 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction and review of Kant	<b>Optional:</b> Kant, “Transcendental Deduction of the Pure Concepts of Understanding”, §§15-19 (Ares ID# 269479)
Week 2 – January 13 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fichte and the Science of Knowledge <b>Question due Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> Fichte, “Concerning the Concept of the <i>Wissenschaftslehre</i> ” (Ares ID# 269480)
Week 3 – January 20 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Fichte and the Science of Knowledge continued <b>Question due Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Fichte, “A Comparison between Prof. Schmid’s System and the <i>Wissenschaftslehre</i> [Excerpt]” (Ares ID# 265852)  (2) Fichte, “All consciousness is conditioned by our immediate consciousness of ourselves” (Ares ID# 269481)  (3) Fichte, <i>The Science of Knowledge</i> , pages 245-7 (Ares ID# 265854)
Week 4 – January 27 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	January 27 <sup>th</sup> : Interlude on Schelling January 29 <sup>th</sup> : Hegel and Absolute Idealism <b>Question due Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> Hegel, “Preface to the <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> ” (Ares ID# 269482)  <b>Optional:</b> Schelling, “Presentation of My System of Philosophy” (Ares ID# 265855)

Week 5 – February 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Hegel and Absolute Idealism continued <b>Question due Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Hegel, <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> , “Absolute Knowing”, §§798-808 (Ares ID# 265858)  (2) Hegel, <i>The Encyclopaedia Logic</i> , §§1-60, 79-83, 213-215 ( <b>note:</b> This reading is long and will not be completely covered this week; for that reason, there will be no new reading next week)
Week 6 – February 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Hegel and Absolute Idealism continued <b>(1) Question due Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b> <b>(2) Paper topics for exegetical essay distributed February 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No new reading</b>
Week 7 – <b>No class</b>	Winter break	
Week 8 – February 24 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	February 24 <sup>th</sup> : Interlude on practical philosophies of Kant & Hegel February 26 <sup>th</sup> : Kierkegaard on despair <b>Question due Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> (1) Kierkegaard, “Is There a Teleological Suspension of the Ethical?” (Ares ID# 265859)  (2) Kierkegaard, <i>The Sickness unto Death</i> , up to and including “Part One: B: The Universality of This Sickness (Despair)” (Ares ID# 269483)
Week 9 – March 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kierkegaard on despair continued <b>(1) Question due Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b> <b>(2) EXEGETICAL PAPER DUE BEGINNING OF CLASS MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> (TO BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY)</b>	<b>Required:</b> Kierkegaard, <i>The Sickness unto Death</i> , to end of Part One (Ares ID# 269483)
Week 10 – March 9 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	March 9 <sup>th</sup> : Interlude on Schopenhauer March 11 <sup>th</sup> : Nietzsche <b>(1) Question due Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> Nietzsche, <i>The Gay Science</i> , Book 1, §§ 1-21; Book 3, §§108-125  <b>Optional:</b> Schopenhauer, “On the Primacy of the Will in Self-Consciousness” (Ares ID# 269485)
Week 11 – March 16 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Nietzsche continued <b>Question due Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> Nietzsche, <i>The Gay Science</i> , Books 4 and 5 ( <b>note:</b> this reading is long but we will be continuing to cover it into next week)
Week 12 – March 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> : Nietzsche continued March 25 <sup>th</sup> : de Beauvoir on existentialist ethics <b>Question due Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b>	<b>Required:</b> de Beauvoir, <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , Part 1 (“Ambiguity and Freedom”) ( <a href="https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/">https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/</a> )
Week 13 – March 30 <sup>th</sup> & April 1 <sup>st</sup>	De Beauvoir on existentialist ethics continued <b>(1) Question due Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 12PM=NOON</b> <b>(2) Final paper topics distributed April 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Required:</b> de Beauvoir, <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , Part 2 (“Personal Freedom and Others”)-Part 3.3 (“The Antinomies of Action”) ( <a href="https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/">https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/</a> )

	<b>(3) April 1<sup>st</sup> = last day to propose final paper topics to me</b>	
Week 14 – April 6 <sup>th</sup> (no class April 8 <sup>th</sup> )	De Beauvoir on existentialist ethics continued <b>No question due this week</b>	<b>Required:</b> de Beauvoir, <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , Part 3.4 (“The Present and the Future”)-end ( <a href="https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/">https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/ambiguity/</a> )
Exam period – April 13 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE IN THE PHILOSOPHY ESSAY BOX AT 4:15PM SATURDAY APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> (TO BE SUBMITTED IN HARD COPY)– I absolutely cannot accept work later than this date, so don’t wait to submit until 4:15PM and risk being late.</b>	

### 3. Where to Find the Readings

Students must purchase the following books:

Hegel, *The Encyclopaedia Logic: Part I of the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences with the Zusätze*, trans. Geraets, Suchting, Harris, published by Hackett. Available in the Carleton University Bookstore and on Amazon here: <https://www.amazon.ca/Encyclopaedia-Logic-Philosophical-Sciences-Zustze/dp/0872200701/>

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, trans. Walter Kaufmann, published by Vintage. Available in the Carleton University Bookstore and on Amazon here: <https://www.amazon.ca/Gay-Science-Prelude-Rhymes-Appendix/dp/0394719859/>

Everything else is available either through Ares or else on the web as noted. If anyone would prefer to purchase hard copies of any of the other readings, let me know and I’ll tell you which editions/translations to purchase. Note that some readings are required, others merely optional (as specified in the readings list above).

### 4. Evaluation

**NB: All assignments are to be submitted in hard copy.** See section 5 below.

1) Attendance and participation (10% 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, attendance will not be taken during the first week of class (i.e., the first two lectures), and students may miss one lecture thereafter, 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 1% from its 10% starting point (to 9%, 8%, etc., down to 0).

2) Weekly questions (10% of final grade). Beginning in second week, at the time indicated in the schedule above, each student shall post a question about some element of the reading for that week to the course discussion board on cuLearn. 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 question 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 question you miss without compelling explanation, this part of your final grade drops by 1% (to 9%, 8%, etc., down to 0). What you ask in your questions will often bear on the contents of my lectures, so **questions cannot be posted late**. (In practice what this means is that you get credit for your question if you get it in before I’ve started writing my lecture for Wednesday. So if you submit later than the indicated time, you are playing with fire as far as getting credit for it is concerned.)

3) *Exegetical essay (30% of final grade)*. During the semester, at the time indicated in the schedule above, students shall submit a paper explaining a passage or argument from a work assigned in class. The paper shall be **1300-1600 words**. This paper 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. The paper will be written in response to set topics, distributed by me no less than three full weeks before the due date. You are not to engage with secondary literature in these papers. **However, if you look at secondary literature anyway, you must cite it in your paper in accordance with Carleton's Academic Integrity guidelines, listed here:** <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>. Failure to do so is **plagiarism** and will be penalized accordingly.

4) *Final essay (50% of final grade)*. Students shall submit a final paper of **no less than 1800 and no more than 2200 words** on the **final day of the exam period (April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**. 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 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**. This paper will have both an **exegetical** and either an **evaluative** or an **interpretive** component, meaning that you will not only be asked to explain a text but also either (a) to offer a compelling objection to the text you've explained and evaluate your chosen author's philosophical resources for responding effectively to it, or (b) to offer and defend a possible resolution of an interpretive difficulty in the text you've explained. 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.

## 5. cuLearn and E-Mail

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 the cuLearn course page, including revised/updated versions of the syllabus, will be considered read by all registered students within 24 hours of posting.**

Weekly questions are to be posted to the course discussion board on cuLearn.

Periodically I will need to send you e-mail, either individually or as a class. You **must** check your university e-mail account regularly. **Any e-mail or information sent to you by e-mail will be considered read within 24 hours of being sent.**

## 6. 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:** (1) Essays are to be submitted **in hard copy**. The exegetical essay is due at the beginning of class on the due date listed in the schedule above. The final essay is due at 4:15PM on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> (the final day of the exam period); hard copies are to be submitted in the Philosophy Essay Box on Paterson 3A. (2) Weekly questions are to be submitted via the course discussion board on cuLearn.

**Electronic devices:** All cellphones are to be silenced or turned off and put away during class. Laptops are permitted in class but are **strongly discouraged unless absolutely necessary**. The reason for this that there is compelling evidence, first, that taking notes on a laptop is not as effective for learning as taking them by hand, second, that electronic devices distract the user, and third, that electronic devices distract other students around the user. If you choose to use a laptop and I find you using it for something other than taking notes in class (e.g., looking at Facebook), I reserve the right to lower your grade by 2% (per occasion).

**Extensions/late assignments:** For the **exegetical essay**, 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 questions**, **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 a file containing it is corrupted, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy **immediately upon request**.

**Standards and expectations for quality of work:** PHIL 3005 is a 3000-level class. Thus, when I evaluate your work, I shall do so according to a standard of quality appropriate for philosophical work at a third-year level.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)

### **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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

### **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 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/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/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:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**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/>

**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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	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. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	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. 6	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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 24	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.
Apr. 7	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. 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. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
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 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