

**PHIL 3330 A – Topics in History of Social and Political Philosophy      Winter 2019**

**Topic: Nation, Society, Community, and Individual in Late Modern Philosophy**

**Instructor:** Christopher McGrath

**Email:** [christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca](mailto:christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday, 16:00-18:00

**Office:** 3A56 Paterson Hall

**Lectures:** Wednesday, 18:00-21:00

**Classroom:** 515 Southam Hall

**Course Description:**

A critical examination of selected topics and perspectives in the history of social and political philosophy.

Our topic for this semester will be “Nation, Society, Community, and Individual in Late Modern Philosophy”.

To develop this topic, we will explore three intersecting philosophical themes: (i) The theme of moral philosophy, asking: how does a philosophical ethics reveal a bearer of values in human nature and its sociality? (ii) The theme of the philosophy of the social sciences, asking: how does a philosophical reflection on the foundations of the social sciences reveal their significance for an understanding of values and human nature? And, (iii) the theme of philosophical anthropology, asking: how do these philosophical reflections on values and society reveal a particular understanding of what it is to be human?

Yet we will not ask these questions in a broad or general way, but rather use them as a framework for investigating a particular period of development in philosophy’s history, and notably one where these three themes come into particular focus and interconnection. Namely, we will use these themes as a framework for exploring late modern philosophy, beginning in the early 1800s and concluding in the early 1900s. This exploration will be organized into four expeditions, each treating a particular period or tradition in late modern philosophy: (i) German Idealism and Romanticism, (ii) French Positivism and German Materialism, (iii) Lebensphilosophie, and (iv) concluding with some relevant productions of German thought in roughly the Weimar period.

By connecting this thematic focus with this historical approach, we will be able to encounter a few interesting developments: (i) the development of moral philosophy in the late modern period, in its idealist, positivist, life-philosophical, and existentialist forms; (ii) the development of the foundations of the social sciences, including formative works on the foundations of history, sociology, interpretive sociology, and psychoanalysis; and (iii) the development of a philosophical anthropology which intersects with and draws from these themes.

These perspectives will allow us to appreciate how ideas of the nation or the people, of civil society and productive association, and of the felt connection with community are developed in the late modern period as potential keys to the problems of moral thought and the question of human nature. And our concluding discussions will focus on how, at the end of this period, the individual remains a problematic figure in relation to these possible sources of identity.

Our broader goal, in addition to achieving an understanding of these philosophical themes for their own sake, will be to try to develop a foundation for thinking about how these questions of identity, and these possible sources for answering this question, continue to be at stake for people today, as we continue to wonder about the nature of morality and humanity.

## Schedule of the Lectures:

Lecture topics and readings may be adjusted pending our ability to adequately work through the material in class. But the prospective plan is as follows:

#	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Jan 09	Introduction	n/a
		<b>Unit I: German Idealism and the Idea of Nation</b>	
2	Jan 16	Nations as Bearers of Value	Schleiermacher's <i>Notes on Ethics</i>
3	Jan 23	History as a Science of Nations and their Values	Humboldt's <i>On Language</i> and <i>On the Historian's Task</i>
4	Jan 30	Human Nature as People and Nation	Fichte's <i>The Characteristics of the Present Age</i> and <i>Addresses to the German Nation</i>
		<b>Unit II: French Positivism/German Materialism and the Idea of Society</b>	
5	Feb 06	Social Association as the Bearer of Value	Comte's <i>System of Positive Polity</i>
6	Feb 13	Sociology as a Science of Association and its Value	Marx and Engels' <i>The German Ideology</i>
	Feb 20	<i>No Class – Winter Break</i>	
7	Feb 27	Human Nature as Society and Association	Feuerbach's <i>Principles of the Philosophy of the Future</i>
		<b>Unit III: Lebensphilosophie and the Idea of Community</b>	
8	Mar 06	Life and Community as the Bearer of Value	Dilthey's <i>System of Ethics</i>
9	Mar 13	Interpretive Sociology as a Science of Living Actors	Weber's <i>Economy and Society</i>
10	Mar 20	Human Nature as Life and Culture	Simmel's <i>The View of Life</i>
		<b>Unit IV: Weimar Philosophy and the Idea of the Individual</b>	
11	Mar 27	The Individual in the Question of Values	Jaspers' <i>Philosophy</i>
12	Apr 03	Psychoanalysis on the Tragedy of the Individual	Freud's <i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i>

Note that the topics/readings will overlap classes in this way: the topic/reading listed on a given day will be introduced in the second part of the previous class, and then discussed at more length on the day listed for it.

## Assessment:

**(i) Term Papers:** Four short (5-6 pages double-spaced for the first three, 3-4 pages for the fourth) papers will be due during the term, one paper corresponding to each of the four units in the course. These term papers will be due in the class following the end of a unit, with the exception of the last paper which will be due on the final day of winter term classes. The student's task in these papers will be to describe in their own words the particular view on human nature, society and the social sciences, and moral thought characteristic to the period or philosophical tradition explored in the unit. It will be the purpose of the readings and lectures to prepare the students to write these papers, so that these papers amount to an expression in the student's own words of the class material. Reference to the course readings will be expected, and students wishing to excel are encouraged to inform their papers with additional

sources. The first two term papers will each be worth 20% of the final grade, while the last two will each be worth 15%.

**(ii) Final Paper:** One medium length (7-8 pages double-spaced) paper will be due at the end of the final exam period. The student's task in this paper will be to pick one theme from the course, either human nature, society and the social sciences, or moral thought, and describe its development across the four periods or philosophical traditions explored in the course. So the preparation for this final paper will be similar to that of the term papers, only instead of summarizing the unit we've just completed, the student will have the opportunity to reflect on and synthesize the work we've done throughout the semester. Reference to the course readings will be expected, and students wishing to excel are encouraged to inform their paper with additional sources. The final paper will be worth 30% of the grade.

**Feb 06** – Term Paper #1 (20%)

**Mar 06** – Term Paper #2 (20%)

**Mar 27** – Term Paper #3 (15%)

**Apr 09** – Term Paper #4 (15%)

**Apr 27** – Final Paper (30%)

*Missed Assessments:* Papers will be accepted late with up to a 10% penalty per day after the due date, or accepted late for full marks if the lateness is excused on medical or similar grounds. Students who have been unable or know they will be unable to submit a paper on time should speak to the professor as soon as is feasible.

### **Readings:**

Course readings will involve a selection of articles and book chapters assembled for the course, and unless otherwise noted will be available online through the course webpage.

### **Class Expectations:**

To keep up with the class work, students will be expected to attend the lectures and to complete the course readings on their own time, as well as to keep up with relevant information posted to the course webpage. Lectures will be based on the readings, so preparation for class should involve completing the relevant reading and bringing to class any questions concerned with understanding it. The more active students are in engaging the material on their own time and contributing to class discussion, the better a learning opportunity class time will be, so students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning experience by committing to this engagement with the class work.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2018-19)

### **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. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	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. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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. 9	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. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	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