Fall 2025 – Carleton University
PHIL 3005: 19th Century Philosophy
Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:05-5:25pm

Instructor: Dr. Kyla Bruff
Email: kyla.bruff@carleton.ca
Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm 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 objects outside of themselves. 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 finding new ways to interpret the intertwined relationship of 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 nature, history, and politics.

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 the first part of this course, we will explore the philosophical problem of human freedom as it emerges within the context of metaphysics. We begin with Kant's redefinition of metaphysics as a critical inquiry into the a priori conditions of experience, before turning to Fichte's foundational principles, which establish the self's activity as the ground of freedom and knowledge. Against this background, we will examine how Schelling reformulates the relation between nature, reflection, and freedom—both in his early philosophy of nature and in his later metaphysics of freedom and personality. Alongside Schelling, we will consider Karoline von Günderrode's reflections on the earth, which extend the problem of freedom into a Romantic engagement with nature. We then turn to Hegel, contrasting his dialectical account of freedom in history with Schelling's alternative metaphysical framework in which freedom is defined through the human capacity for good and for evil.

From here, we will turn our attention to two different lines of development in 19th 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 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 19th century philosophy
- to be able to critically analyse, relate and juxtapose different approaches to metaphysics, politics and existentialism in the 19th century
- to identify the importance of 19th century philosophy for 20th and 21st century philosophy and for answering contemporary socio-political questions

V. Course readings and texts:

All required readings for this course will be made available to you online through https://reserves.library.carleton.ca/ares/. 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

Preface to the second edition of Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood, published by Cambridge: https://www.amazon.ca/Critique-Pure-Reason-Immanuel-Kant/dp/0521657296

First Part of J.G. Fichte, *Foundations of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre and Related Writings (1794-95)*, trans. Daniel Breazeale, published by Oxford: https://www.amazon.ca/J-G-Fichte-Foundation-Wissenschaftslehre/dp/0198842902

Paragraph 163 in 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," pp 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/

The section on "Lordship and Bondage," in Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. A.V. Miller, published by Oxford University Press, 1979.
https://www.amazon.ca/Phenomenology-Spirit-G-W-Hegel/dp/0198245971

First Division, "I. The Unconditioned in Nature" (pp. 13-19) of Schelling, *First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature*, trans. Keith R. Peterson, published by SUNY, 2004.
https://www.amazon.ca/First-Outline-System-Philosophy-Nature/dp/0791460045

"The Idea of Nature" and "The Idea of the Earth" by Karoline von Günderrode, pp. 81-84 of *Women philosophers in the long nineteenth century: the German tradition,* published by Oxford University Press, 2021. Available here: https://ocul-crl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_CRL/hgdufh/alma991022972133905153

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

Chapter 1 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 Wiliams 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. 3	Course Introduction	None
Sept. 8	The problem of metaphysics	Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, B Preface (Bx–Bxxx/pp. 107-117).
Sept. 10	Fichte's first three principles	G. Anthony Bruno, *§1* (pp. 72-75) of "Freedom and Pluralism in Schelling's Critique of Fichte's Jena *Wissenschaftslehre*." Fichte, Foundations of the Entire Wissenschaftslehre (1794/95), "Foundational Principles of the Entire *Wissenschaftslehre*" §§1,2, and first half of 3 (pp.200–218).
Sept. 15	Nature, being, and freedom: romanticism and the question of the earth	Dale Snow, *Schelling and the End of Idealism,* pp. 82-92. Schelling, *First Outline,* pp. 13-19, "The Idea of Nature" and
Sept. 17	Nature, being, and freedom: romanticism and the question of the earth	Schelling, *First Outline,* pp. 13-19, "The Idea of Nature" and "The Idea of the Earth" by Karoline von Günderrode (pp. 81-84).
Sept. 22	Schelling on freedom and personality	Dale Snow, *Schelling and the End of Idealism,* pp. 171-180. Schelling, Freedom Essay, pp. 23-31
Sept. 24	Schelling's metaphysics	Schelling, Freedom Essay, pp. 68-71
Sept. 29	Hegel's dialectics **In-class interpretation activity**	Hegel, Lesser Logic §163 + Addition 1
Oct. 1	The master-slave dialectic	Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, pp. 111-119, the section on "Lordship and Bondage."
Oct. 6	**In-class blog post written on Schelling** Hegel's dialectical view of the means and end of history	Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, Ch. 3, "Freedom, the Individual, and the State," pp. 19-29
Oct. 8	**ASYNCHRONOUS LECTURE: No in-person class on this date. Discussion board opens (post due by Oct 12, 11:59pm)**. Between Feuerbach and Hegel: materialism, humanism, naturalism and dialectics	Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, "Preface," pp. 13-18

Oct. 13	**No class; Thanksgiving.**	
Oct. 15	The natural human being and self-consciousness in the context of Hegel **Graded blog posts returned to students**	Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts,* "Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole," pp. 141-150
Oct. 20 & 22	**NO CLASSES – MIDTERM BREAK**	
Oct. 27	Marx's critique of Hegel	Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, "Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole," pp. 150-168
Oct. 29	**Midterm Oral Exams**	
Nov. 3	Mill on the relation of liberty to authority and the legitimate limitation of individual freedom	Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 1: "Introductory," pp. 7-21
Nov. 5	Three types of liberty	Mill, *On Liberty,* Chapter 1: "Introductory," pp. 21-31
Nov. 10	The nature of the will	Schopenhauer, *World as Will and Representation*, § 29, pp. 162-165
Nov. 12	Can the will ever be satisfied?	Schopenhauer, *World as Will and Representation*, § 36, pp. 184-194
Nov. 17	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. 19	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. 24	Death and eternal life; introduction to despair	Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, "Zarathustra's Prologue," pp. 9-16
Nov. 26	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.1	The types of despair: (a) despair to be unconscious of having a self (b) despair in not wanting to be oneself (c) despair to will to be oneself Not being in despair is reconciling the finite and the infinite; the self with love.	Kierkegaard, *Sickness Unto Death*, pp. 42-64
Dec. 3	Final paper proposal presentations – Day 1	
Dec. 5 (Friday)	Final paper proposal presentations – Day 2	
Dec. 20	**Final take-home exam paper due**	

VIII. Evaluation

- **Attendance and Participation: 15%**

  Attendance will be recorded at the start of each class. Failure to attend class will have a negative impact on your participation grade. One unexcused absence is permitted. Please note that birthday parties, travel plans, personal commitments, and travel disruptions are not valid reasons for missing class. Only circumstances such as illness, family emergencies, or university-recognized obligations will be considered legitimate grounds for absence.

- **In-class interpretation activity on Hegel's dialectics** (reading and discussing a passage in a small group, and presenting back to the class on Sept. 29): **10%**

- **In class blog post** on Schelling's concept of freedom applied to an example from your life (written in class on October 6): **10%**

  The blog post/journal entry consists of two hand-written, double spaced pages each and is intended to help you engage with Schelling's ideas in a practical way. It does 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.

- **One online discussion** post based on the recorded lecture of Oct. 8 (to be completed between October 8-12): **5%**

- **Midterm Oral Exam** on October 29**: 20%**

- **Presentation of paper proposal** on Dec. 3 or 5: **10%**

- **Final take-home exam paper** (due Dec. 20)**: 30%**

All papers are to be typed and submitted on Brightspace. Please use size 12, 1.5 line spacing, and give your paper a title. Please submit your paper as a .doc or .docx file. and are due at **11:59 pm on the due date**. Because the due date for final take-home examinations is set by the university, this is a hard deadline and **no late take-home exam papers will be accepted.**

Please ensure all sources are cited in line with Carleton's Academic Integrity guidelines, listed here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/.

AI use in for the final paper: Students may use AI tools for basic word processing and formatting functions, including:

- Grammar and spell checking (e.g., Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor).
- Basic formatting and design suggestions (e.g., Microsoft Word's formatting tools, PowerPoint Design editor).

Documenting AI use: It is not necessary to document the use of AI for the permitted purposes listed above. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that is not listed above, please come chat with me.

Why have I adopted this policy? This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout, and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without relying on AI support

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2025-26)

Assignments:
Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. We no longer allow hard copies to be placed in the department's essay box.

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 EIC 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 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. 3	Classes start.
Sept. 16	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. 13	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 20-24	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 21	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. 5	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. 6-7	No classes or examinations take place.
Dec. 8-20	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. 20	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 5	Classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 16-20	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.
Mar. 25	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. 3	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 8	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. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 11-23	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
https://carleton.ca/csas/support/
520-3822

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