PHIL 1620 A – Great Philosophical Ideas, Part II **Fall 2019**

Instructor: Christopher McGrath **Email:** christopher.mcgrath@carleton.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 14:30-16:00 **Office:** 3A54 Paterson Hall

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 13:00-14:30 **Classroom:** 100 St. Pat's

Description:

Major figures and developments in philosophy after the year 1400. Descriptive and comparative approach, providing an understanding of the place of philosophers in the history of thought. Appreciation of critical reasoning is included for comprehending philosophical developments.

The aim of this course is to provide students with an initial introduction to modern philosophy, by studying select major developments in its history from the beginning of the early modern period (17th-18th century) to the beginning of the contemporary period of philosophical work in the early 20th century. The emphasis will be placed jointly on understanding major historical positions during this period on their own terms, and on understanding the larger trajectory of cultural development in which these positions are situated and which spans modern intellectual history.

To facilitate such a broad possible set of topics, the course will be divided thematically into three units. In Unit I, our thematic focus will be on "theoretical philosophy": we will study the development of themes in modern philosophy from the 17th to the 20th centuries focusing on questions about the nature of theoretical knowledge, the foundations of the natural sciences, and the concept of nature. With Unit II we will return to the beginning of the modern period and review the same periods of historical development, but now with a focus on "practical philosophy": our topics of study will be morality, political philosophy, and the nature of humanity. In Unit III we will revisit our historical trajectory a third and final time, now focusing on the speculative aspirations of philosophy where theoretical and practical interests are combined: in the philosophy of art and in philosophical reflections on religion and God—including God's absence in atheist philosophy.

In each unit, our work will proceed by a reading and discussion of selections from primary texts written by the influential philosophers who marked out these developments in the trajectory of modern intellectual culture.

Accordingly, students should come away from the course with a basic familiarity with major themes in modern intellectual history as they are developed in the particular fields of philosophy, with an appreciation for the cultural background and idiosyncracies of our own contemporary worldview which is indebted to this obscure work from the past, and with a better understanding of some of the major problems, methods, and aims of philosophical work.

Schedule of the Lectures:

Lecture topics may be adjusted pending our ability to adequately get through the material in class. But the initial plan is as follows:

#	Date	Topic
1	Sep 05	Introduction to the Class
		Unit I – Knowledge and Nature in Modern Philosophy
2	Sep 10	Rationalism in Theory – Leibniz
3	Sep 12	Experimentalism in Theory – Hume
4	Sep 17	Idealism in Theory – Kant
5	Sep 19	From the Early Modern to the Late Modern – Schelling
6	Sep 24	Naturalism in Theory – Spencer
7	Sep 26	The Philosophy of Life – Bergson
8	Oct 01	The Beginning of Analytic Philosophy – Carnap
		Unit II – Morality and Humanity in Modern Philosophy
9	Oct 03	Rationalism in Practice – Spinoza
10	Oct 08	**Test #1**
11	Oct 10	Experimentalism in Practice – Rousseau
12	Oct 15	Idealism in Practice – Kant
13	Oct 17	From the Early Modern to the Late Modern – Fichte
	Oct 22	**No Class – Fall Break**
	Oct 24	**No Class – Fall Break**
14	Oct 29	Materialism in Practice – Marx **[research paper due]**
15	Oct 31	The Philosophy of Life – Dilthey
16	Nov 05	The Beginning of Analytic Philosophy – Neurath
		Unit III – Art and Religion in Modern Philosophy
17	Nov 07	The Aspirations of Rationalism – Mendelssohn
18	Nov 12	**Test #2**
19	Nov 14	The Aspirations of Experimentalism – Shaftesbury
20	Nov 19	The Aspirations of Idealism – Kant
21	Nov 21	From the Early Modern to the Late Modern – Hegel
22	Nov 26	The Aspirations of Materialism – Feuerbach
23	Nov 28	The Philosophy of Life – Nietzsche

24	Dec 03	The Beginning of Analytic Philosophy – Carnap and Neurath
		Concluding Remarks
25	Dec 05	Concluding Remarks

Assessment:

Students' performance in the course will be assessed by three tests, two held in class and one held during the final exam period. These three tests are equally weighted and non-cumulative, each covering the material from only one unit. The tests will consist of (i) fill in the blank style questions aimed to test the student's familiarity with some of the basic terms and concepts introduced during the unit, (ii) fill in the blank style questions aimed to test the student's familiarity with the key premises and conclusions of select arguments encountered in the term, and (iii) long answer styles questions aimed to test the student's conceptual understanding of these concepts and ideas.

27% - Noncumulative Test #1 on Unit I, held in class on Oct 08

27% - Noncumulative Test #2 on Unit II, held in class on Nov 12

27% - Noncumulative Test #3 on Unit III, held during the final exam period

Students will also be required to submit a brief (4-6 pages double-spaced, 1000-1500 words) research paper on a topic of modern philosophy, showing evidence of having independently researched, read, and synthesized relevant academic material informing their case, and communicating it in an effective manner. This paper will be due in class midway through the semester.

19% - Research Paper, due in class on Oct 29

Readings:

Readings will be provided online via the course webpage.

Class Expectations:

To keep up with the class work, students are expected to attend the lectures and complete the readings in a timely fashion. To be awarded marks in the assessment, students are required to be present on the scheduled day to write each test, or to formally request rescheduling at the earliest reasonable notice only on the basis of a documented or comparably reasonable excuse for being unable to write the test on the scheduled day.

To facilitate engaging the class material and preparing for the test, brief summaries of the major points discussed in class will be provided on the course webpage. However, these will not serve as an adequate alternative to attending the lectures, and will include only the major points students are expected to remember, without the explanation of them provided during the scheduled lectures. To help further prepare for the tests, review notes will be provided on the course webpage, containing a list of the key terms, concepts, and arguments that will be asked about in the fill in the blank section, and a list of the concepts and arguments that will be asked about in the long answer section.

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 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

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

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

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. **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. 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 www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735