

Philosophy 3150

Kant and the 19th Century

Spring semester, 2016

Utah State University

Charlie Huenemann, Instructor

T/Th 9-10:15, Main 201

This is a class in which you are likely to come across sentences like, “The inner coming-to-be or genesis of substance is an unbroken transition into outer existence, into being-for-another, and conversely, the genesis of existence is how existence is by itself taken back into essence” (Hegel). If your immediate response is, “Alright! Now we’re getting down to business!”, then you are surely in the right class. We will be thinking through some of the biggest questions and ideas people have ever thought, pitching ourselves against works of Kant, Fichte, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Marx, and Nietzsche. Nothing done with the human mind gets better than this!

In terms of **learning outcomes** (as stated by the resolutely unimaginative creators of IDEA student evaluations), this course will help you with:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
- Developing skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Contact information for the instructor: Charlie Huenemann, office Main 208, office hours 1:30-3 on T/W, but also generally available on T/W/Th, and by appointment, email charlie.huenemann@usu.edu. I’m always happy to meet with you - really, I’m a friendly and encouraging fellow who enjoys talking with students - so please feel welcome to knock on my door. I have a blog if you are interested: huenemanniach.wordpress.com. Also, you may wish to check out usphilosophy.com to stay abreast of local philosophical happenings.

What you will have to do. You will be reading texts about the philosophers as well as some texts by the philosophers. I am making available questions for each of the assigned readings, questions which should help you to focus on important stuff. I recommend writing out answers to each of the questions, just to make sure you comprehending the material. *You may give them to me to read and provide feedback - but **this is up to you**. If you want me to check your grasp of the material, I’m happy to do it; but **I will not require you to turn in** any answers to the reading questions.* A smart person would always write them up, and give them to me when he or she felt unsure of the material and wanted an external “reality” check. Also, a person seeking to be a

better writer would write up everything, turn it in, and make use of the critical feedback I can provide.

I **will require** you to write and turn in three papers - one on Kant, one on an idealist (like Fichte or Hegel), and one on a post-idealist (like Marx or Nietzsche). These papers will be 5-7 pages long. They will consist in a general overview of the philosopher in question, some engagement with a secondary discussion, and a thoughtful evaluation of that discussion. More details will be given elsewhere.

Also: during the last two weeks, I will require each of you **to present one of your papers** to the class. During these presentations, *everyone's attendance is required* - there will be no skipping out. Again, more details will be given elsewhere

>> Through your attendance and participation in class, through whatever answers to reading questions you give me, and through your papers I hope to gain an accurate assessment of your performance in the class, and your final grade will reflect this assessment. The three papers will count for a lot in my assessment - more than any other thing you do. In assigning your final grade, I will take a holistic approach, also taking into account effort and improvement. <<

So: what do you have to do for a good grade? Take this class seriously, engage with the material, write three good, biggish papers, present one of them, and be a good colleague to your classmates.

You are mature students, so you don't need to be told the following things at all, but I'll say them anyway just to be sure we are on the same page:

Cheating. In class - as in life - never try to pass off someone else's work as your own. Don't take something from another student or some website and put your name on it as if you did it. If you want to make use of someone else's idea or words, fine; just find a way to give them proper credit. I'm completely intolerant of this kind of intellectual theft; it's a cardinal sin of the academy.

Lateness in turning in work: generally there should be none, but life packs surprises, and sometimes work has to be delayed. *Be mature about this, and talk to me about it.* If you need an alternative exam time, or need some alternative exam arrangement due to disability, please let me know, and we'll work something out.

Books. Just one book is required for the class - Frederick Copleston's *A History of Philosophy, Vol. 7: Modern Philosophy - From the Post-Kantian Idealists to Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche* (Image, reprint 1994). Everything else will be made available on Canvas.

A sketchy projection of what we will be doing, day by day:

Date	What we will discuss in class	What to read for class, and questions to answer:
1.12	Introduction	none
1.14	Kant's epistemology	The two prefaces and the introduction to the <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> (note that we will be discussing this reading over the next three classes) Q1
1.19	cont.'d	Q2
1.21	cont'd	Q3, Q4
1.26	cont.'d	Q5
1.28	Kant's moral theory	Selection from <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> Q6
2.2	cont.'d	Q7, Q8
2.4	[Library]	
2.9	Fichte	Copleston, pp. 1-75 Q9
2.11	Fichte & Schelling	Copleston, pp. 76-148 Q10, Q11
2.18	Schleiermacher paper 1 due	Copleston, pp. 149-58 Q12
2.23	Hegel: Spirit	Copleston, pp. 159-88 Q13
2.25	Hegel: History	Copleston, pp. 189-225; Hegel, <i>Philosophy of History</i> Q14
3.1	cont.'d	Q15
3.3	Schopenhauer	Copleston, pp. 261-92; Schopenhauer selections Q16
spring break: woohoo!		
3.15	Feuerbach & Marx	Copleston, pp. 293-334 Q17

3.17	Marx	Q18
3.22	Critique of enlightenment	Adorno & Horkheimer; "Dark Side of the Enlightenment" Q19
3.24	cont.'d	
3.29	Kierkegaard	Copleston, pp. 335-51 Q20
3.31	cont.'d paper 2 due	Q21
4.5	Nietzsche	Copleston, pp. 390-420 Q22, Q23
4.7	cont.'d	"What is Noble?" from <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> Q24
4.12	cont.'d	
4.14	???	
4.19	Student presentations	
4.21	cont.'d	
4.26	cont.'d	
4.28	cont.'d	
5.3	paper 3 due, by noon	