

Philosophy 3150

Kant and the 19th Century

Spring semester, 2018

Utah State University

Professor Charlie Huenemann

T/Th 12-1:15, Main 207

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.

In pursuit of these worthy outcomes, we will be alternating between close analyses of texts and more open-ended discussions of the big pictures that emerge from these texts.

Contact information for the instructor: Charlie Huenemann, office Main 208, office hours 12-2 on W, but also generally available on T/W/Th, and by appointment; please contact me by email, at 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: huenemanni.wordpress.com. Also, you may wish to check out usuphilosophy.com to stay abreast of local philosophical happenings.

What you will have to do. This class is designated “Communications Intensive”, which means that in addition to studying philosophical content, we should devote some effort toward building communication skills.

* For each reading assignment there will be a **short quiz or response**, mainly to help direct your attention in the reading (a total of roughly 60 points).

* **Attendance:** three classes may be missed without penalty. After that, 10 points will be deducted for each absence, from a total of 60 points.

* Four papers will be assigned with different prompts:

1. A **summary** paper, in which you will simply summarize a philosophical passage in clearer terms (20 points);
2. An **objections** paper, in which you will summarize a passage and raise a small set of questions or objections having to do with proper interpretation (40 points);
3. A **scholarly** paper, in which you discuss some scholar's essay on a figure we have studied (60 points);
4. A **review** paper, in which you explore some theme, problem, tension, or question that pulls together several of the figures we have studied (60 points).

* You will each participate on a panel discussion on some figure. This means a 5-minute oral presentation on something you have found interesting in relation to one of the figures we have studied. (20 points)

Other. 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.* I won't penalize a paper for lateness until I have read all of the papers that have been turned in. So, any paper that comes in after I reach the bottom of "the stack" is late. I generally reach the bottom of the stack in a week or so, sometimes sooner, sometimes later. The penalty for a late paper is that it cannot earn more than 80% of the possible points.

Books. All are required. Copleston, *A History of Philosophy* vol. 7 (Crown 1994); Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (Penguin, 2008); Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett, 1988); Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols* (Hackett, 1997).