19thC. Philosophy

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Course Description

19th Century Philosophy
George Washington University
R.Carr

This is a 19thC. history of philosophy course that oddly enough begins with Kant (1724-1804) who died as the 19thC began. Kant’s epistemology and theory of ethics, however, are the foundations of 19thC thought. In fact, it has been said that the 19thC interpretations of reality that we study in this course are simply footnotes to Kant. As a figure of the Enlightenment Kant respected the power of reason, held in high regard Newtonian science, and viewed the world as static and unchanging. But this view of the world collapsed in the 19thC, as did respect for reason and the reverence towards science. The world was evolving; nothing was fixed. Objectivity and the search for truth were replaced by subjectivity and the anxious search for individual meaning in an ever changing world.

From Kant, we move to a study of Hegel, a study of Schopenhauer (1788-1860), a veritable pessimist who brought Eastern thought into Western philosophy, a study of Nietzsche (1844-1900), a radical and energizing thinker, and a study of Kierkegaard (1813-1855), an elusive poet-philosopher. Hopefully, we will have a look at Marx and his dialectical thought before the end of the semester.

Course Pre-Requisites:
This is an upper level philosophy course, so you need to have taken Introduction to Philosophy or its equivalent course in order to take this course.

Course Objectives (Learning Outcomes):
1. Analysis of philosophical texts.
2. Appreciation of different philosophical styles and the significance of different styles.
3. Reflection upon the very nature of philosophical inquiry.

4. Comprehension of the following:

a. the program and method of Kant in *Critique of Pure Reason*, *Critique of Practical Reason*, and *Critique of Judgment* and the problems of the noumena/phenomena distinction, the severe rationality of his ethics, and the bifurcation of the self

b. the move from transcendental idealism to Hegelian idealism

c. Schopenhauer's use of the phena/nounema distinction, his parody of Hegelian philosophy, and his many-layered pessimism.

d. Nietzsche's critical philosophy as a propaedeutic for becoming a creative individual

e. Kierkegaard's existentialism as a rejection of both Hegel and Kant

f. the radical transformation of the concepts of will, self, and philosophy that takes place in the 19th Century.

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**Grading Policies**

Students are expected to attend class, to be prepared and to be on time. Critical reading of the texts is essential and one should always have questions to raise in our philosophical discussions. You will not be told what you have to know and what you don't have to know. Tests and papers are not meant to elicit total recall of what I say. Philosophers try to think and so grades in this course will reflect three things: evidence that you have read and studied the assigned texts, how much I think you have worked to think about the texts, and how successfully I think that you have done so.

There will be 4 quizzes, two exams, and two short papers.

15% quiz average (lowest quiz dropped)
15% paper or test- Kant and Hegel
20% paper or test- Schopenhauer
20% paper or test- Nietzsche
30% final exam- All Material

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**Class Policies:**

Late work will not be accepted except in the event of a religious holiday (give a week's notice), illness (provide documentation), or family emergency.

Work is due at the start of class. I want a hard copy of the papers.

Quizzes and exams may be made up only under the conditions that are stated above for acceptance of late work.

All work must be one's own. Please see our university policy on academic integrity. I take academic integrity seriously. You need to have a look at the GW Code of Academic Integrity:http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html
Please turn off your cell phones before coming to class. No texting during class. No computers used during class unless you first discuss this with me.

Please do not eat in class... a drink is just fine.

Please do not sleep in class; I will wake you up.
Required Texts

Texts required
2. Arthur Schopenhauer (translators Carus and Aquila). The World as Will and Representation, vol. 1
4. Walter Kaufmann, editor. Portable Nietzsche
19th Century Philosophy

19th Century Philosophy, Fall 2012
3113.10 CRN 31274
George Washington University

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home phone- 703-528-6827
Office-525 A-Phillips
Monday- 1:45-3:45 and 5-6; by appointment, as well. Please email or phone.

M,W 3:45-5
Smith 115

Outline of Lectures and Discussions
Please note that dates and readings are subject to change. Changes will be announced in class or made on Blackboard. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all announcements of work and changes made in class.

8/29- Introduction and Expectations
Kant, CPR, pps. 85-104, Prolegomena, pps.149-172

9/05- Kant’s Copernican Revolution
Kant, CPR, pps.104-110, Prolegomena, pps.172-181

9/10- Transcendental Aesthetic
Kant, CPR, pps.110-125, Prolegomena, pps.181-190, Secs 27-30, pps.193-195

9/12- Transcendental Logic:Analytic
Kant, CPR, pps.125-136, Prolegomena, pps. 202-206,210-233
Kant. Foundations, Sec1,2
9/17-Transcendental Logic: Dialectic; Critique of Practical Reason
Kant Foundations, all with special attention to Sec 1 and Sec 2. CPRR, pps. 304-317, 325-327

9/19- Kant’s Ethical Theory
all of ethics, proof in Sec 3 of Foundations of Metaphysics of Morals

9/24-Kant’s Ethical Theory
Kant CJ, Intro
353-361; 364- top 366; sec. 17, p. 370; sec. 19, 20, 21 p. 374; Analytic of Sublime p. 376-379; sec 44, 45, 46, and 59 p. 3

9/26- Critique of Judgment
Review all Kant texts

10/01-Critique of Judgment, Analytic of the Beautiful and the Sublime, and Hegel Introduction
all Hegel readings under Projects

10/03- Hegel
Hegel Readings under Projects, Readings 1 and 2,

10/08-Midterm
Kant and Hegel
Schopenhauer, World as Presentation, read intro by translator, prefaces, and first 5 sections of First Book

10/10- Schopenhauer: World as Presentation
S, Read Prefaces, First Book with the exception of Sections 7, 14, 15; Section 9, read to p. 75

10/15- World as Representation
S, Second Book, begin p. 135, read all with exception of Section 24

10/17- World as Will
S, Third Book, read Sections 36-39 and Section 42

10/22-
Book 3, sections 41-43, 47 and 52
Book 4, sections 53-59

10/24 Aesthetic Theory and Will under 2nd Aspect
Read all, but if you must pick and choose:
Book 4, sections 52-61
62- read - 2/3, p. 391
65,
1st paragraph of 66
67-69
70, pps 467-top of 470, and 71
...the role of the principle of individuation, types of salvation, relation to and
differtns with art, will-full-ness and will-less-ness, the point of view in
ethics...

10/29 Review Schopenhauer
Nietzsche (hereafter N), pps. 32-39, 73-103, TSZ, Part 1

10/31 Cognition and Language in Nietzsche
Nietzsche, pps. 32-39, 73-103, TSZ, Part 1

11/05 - Master Morality/Slave Morality
N, TSZ, Parts 2, 3

11/07 - Will to Power, Eternal Recurrence, Nihilism
N, pps. 443-454, Twilight of the Idols

11/12 - Criticism and Going-Over
N, Antichrist

11/14 - Nietzsche's Criticism of Culture and Philosophy
review all Nietzsche readings

11/19 - Kierkegaard: What am I to do?
Kierkegaard (hereafter K), The Journals, pps. 1-19

11/26 - Truth as Subjective
K, Concluding Unscientific Postscript

11/28 - The Existential Situation
K, Either/Or, attention to Diary of a Seducer

12/03 - The Three Stages: Aesthetic, Ethical, Religious
K, Fear and Trembling

12/05 - Kierkegaard's Legacy
K, Sickness Unto Death