

**PHLOS 720: Reading Course on Hegel**  
**Fall Term 2018**  
**Mo 12:30 to 2:20 at T13 10**  
**Th 11:30 to 1:30 at UH 312**

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**UH 311**

### **Course Description**

Although the course title explicitly refers only to Hegel, we will survey the work of two other authors in addition to Hegel: Rousseau, whose work deeply influenced Hegel, and Marx, who responds to Hegel on a number of fronts. The course will focus on a number of key ideas as elaborated by each of these authors: recognition, exploitation, alienation, freedom, practical reason, and human nature. By the end of term, the student should be able (1) to explicate in some detail each author's conception of these ideas, (2) to cogently compare and contrast key similarities and differences between these conceptions, (3) and to assess their merit (or lack thereof) as contributions to our understanding of human relationships and our shared social world. Graduate students will also focus on Hegel's methodology, particularly as contrasted with Marx's approach. As we will see, normative reasoning and a distinctive metaethical theory is a key fixture of Hegel's account, whereas Marx is ambivalent about the warrant of normative reasoning.

Note that graduate students will be asked to sit in on my lectures on Monday for Hegel 3YY3 in addition to a two-hour graduate discussion section.

### **Texts to Purchase:**

- *Rousseau: The Basic Political Writings*, edited by Cress and Wootton, 2nd ed., Hackett Pub Co Inc; 2012, ISBN-10: 1603846735. (RBPW)
- *Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, edited by Allen Wood, Cambridge University Press; 1st ed., 1991, ISBN-10: 0521348889.
- *The Marx Engels Reader*, edited by Robert Tucker, 1st ed., W W Norton & Co Inc, 1978, ISBN-10: 039309040X.

### **Material on Avenue to Learn or accessible via McMaster Library electronic database:**

- *Blackwell Guide to Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (BGPS)* (Avenue to Learn)
- Neuhouser, *Rousseau on Inequality (RI)* (Avenue to Learn)
- *Hegel's Political Philosophy, T. Brooks and S. Smith, eds. (HPP)* (McMaster Library)
- **Hardimon**, *Hegel's Project of Reconciliation* (Avenue to Learn)
- **Brudney**, *Marx's Attempt to Leave Philosophy* (Avenue to Learn)

### **Grading Scheme:**

2 Short Essays (10 pages or so each) (40% \* 2) or

1 Long Essay ( 18 pages or so) (80%)

If elected, the 1<sup>st</sup> short essay must be handed in by Nov 8. The 2nd short essay or single long essay is due at the end of the exam period.

### **Discussion Participation (20%)**

We will take turns kicking off the discussion with prepared critical discussion. This will include a very short overview summary of what the reading was about, then a question or criticism focusing on a particular aspect of the reading. I'll take the first session. Each session will feature one or two supplementary readings. Early in the course, we will focus on one reading per discussion section. This will allow me to provide supplementary lecture or orientation as needed.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. a grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a transcript notation, or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, sections 17 and 18.

(<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>).

### **Miscellaneous Administrative Notes**

- 1.) The scale used by the Registrar's Office will be used to convert number grades to final letter grades.
- 2.) It is the policy of the Philosophy Department that all email communication between students and instructors must originate from their official McMaster University email accounts. This policy protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information and confirms the identities of both the student and instructor. Philosophy department instructors will delete messages that do not originate from McMaster email accounts.
- 3.) The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses. If either type of modification becomes necessary, where possible reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. Students should check their McMaster email and course websites frequently during the term and to note any changes.

## Tentative Schedule of Readings

A finalized schedule of readings will be provided at the beginning of term.

For the first day, please read pp. 45-69 and footnote xv on p. 117 from the Rousseau reader (RBPW) and Neuhausser, *Amour Propre* is the Source of Social Inequality

### Part I: Rousseau

#### Week 1: 9-06

The Discourse on Inequality, pp. 45-69 and footnote xv on p. 117  
Neuhausser, *Amour Propre* is the Source of Social Inequality (RI)

#### Week 2: 9-10

Excerpts from Discourse on Inequality, Part II

Discussion: 9-13

Neuhausser, The Normative Source of Nature (RI)

#### Week 3: 9-17

Excerpts from the Social Contract

Discussion: 9-20

Neuhausser, Judging the Legitimacy of Social Inequality (RI)

### Part II: Hegel

#### Week 4: 9-24

Excerpts from Self-Consciousness (PS)

Discussion: 9-27

(BCPR), Neuhausser, Lord and Bondage

#### Week 5: 10-1

Excerpts from, Self-Consciousness (PS)

Excerpts from Preface (PR)

Discussion: 10-4

(HPP), ch. 1

#### Week 6: 10-15

Excerpts from Introduction (PR)

Discussion: 10-18

(HPP), ch. 2

(HPP), ch. 3

**Week 7: 10-22**

Excerpts from Abstract Right, Introduction, Property, and Contract (PR)

Discussion: 10-25

Ch. 4 (HPP)

Ch. 13 (HPP)

**Week 8: 10-29**

Excerpts from Abstract Right, Wrong

Excerpts from Abstract Right, Morality

Discussion: 11-1

Ch. 10, Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (BCPR)

Hardimon, ch. 5

**Week 9: 11-5**

Excerpts from Ethical Life: The Family and Civil Society

Discussion: 11-8

Hardimon, ch. 6

Brudney, ch. 1

**Week 10: 11-12**

Excerpts from Ethical Life: The State

Discussion: 11-15

Brudney, Ch. 4 and 5

**Part III: Marx****Week 11: 11-19**

Marx: On the Jewish Question

Excerpts from Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts

Discussion: 11-22

Brudney, ch. 6 and 8

**Week 12: 11-26**

Theses on Feuerbach,

Excerpts from The German Ideology

Discussion: 11-29

Brudney, ch. 9 and 10

**Week 13: 12-6**

Excerpts from The German Ideology

The 18<sup>th</sup> Brumaire