

# **Philosophy 316: 19'TH CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY**

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Catt 453

4-0055

Office Hours: M 9-11, TT 9-10, and by appointment

In the *Philosophy of Right* Hegel claimed to establish the underlying rationality of the modern social order. In *Capital* and other writings Marx vehemently disputed this claim. The core of this class will consist of a detailed examination of their key arguments, with special attention to the role of dialectical methodology in their theories. The course will also explore two other main themes: the rejection of the notion of rationality found in Nietzsche, and the critical assessments of Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche proposed by contemporary feminist philosophers.

## **Texts**

*Hegel's Philosophy of Right*, (Oxford)

Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume 1* (Penguin)

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Vintage)

A collection of articles on Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche by feminist philosophers, available at PRINTS, on Chamberlain Street in Campustown

## **Requirements**

Weekly quizzes

Weekly discussion papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced, font 12)

Two term papers, due October 5 and December 7 (7-10 pages)

Mid-term exam, October 12

Final exam

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class. Students missing a quiz may write a 2 page paper on a topic covered in the quiz as a make-up, due the following class period.

Topics for the weekly discussion papers will be provided by the instructor. In their discussion papers students should not simply paraphrase an assigned text; an issue for discussion should also be raised and briefly explored.

In their term papers students will be expected to select a specific issue raised in the assigned readings, present the author(s) position in their own words, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the author(s) arguments, and present and defend their own views on the topic selected. The assignment is to push the discussion of the particular topic past the point where we left off in class. The second term

paper must be on topics discussed in the second half of the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any of the written assignments.

The exams will consist of four essay questions on material covered in class. The final will not include material from before the mid-term. No make-ups will be given for exams. Students who miss the mid-term or final exam may hand in a 7-10 paper instead, due October 12 and the day after the final, respectively.

The weekly quizzes as a group, the discussion papers as a group, the first and second term papers, and the two exams, will each be worth a sixth of the final grade. Students may write an third for extra credit, on any topic covered in the course. Students who participate in class discussion regularly over the course of the semester will also receive extra credit. The grade of student receiving extra credit will be raised a notch (for example, from C+ to B- or from B to B+)

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Disability Resources staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodations you will need.

## **Provisional Outline of Course**

### **Weeks 1-4: selections from Hegel's *The Philosophy of Right***

The pace at which we go through the text, and the sections that we'll cover, will be determined by the course of class discussions.

### **Week 5: Feminist Assessments of Hegel**

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, 110-122; 261-7

Seyla Benhabib, "One Hegel, Women, and Irony"

Carole Pateman, "Hegel, Marriage, and the Standpoint of Contract"

Heidi Ravven, "Has Hegel Anything to Say to Feminists?"

### **Weeks 6-7; 9-10: selections from Marx's *Capital* [week 8: midterm exam]**

Here too the pace at which we go through the text, and the sections that we'll cover, will be determined by the course of class discussions.

### **Week 11: Feminist Assessments of Marx**

Susan Himmelwelt, "Reproduction and the Materialist Conception of History: A Feminist Critique"

### **Weeks 12-14: selections from Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil***

### **Week 15: Feminist Assessments of Nietzsche**

Ofelia Schutte, "Nietzsche's Politics"

Rosalyn Diprose, "Nietzsche, Ethics and Sexual Difference"