

PHIL 204: 19th and 20th Century Philosophy
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 9:30AM-10:35AM
Instructor: Apaar Kumar
Office Hours: MWF 3:45PM-4:45PM, Seney Hall 110
Email: akumar6@emory.edu

Content

In this course, we will make a general survey of the major trends in philosophy emerging in the 19th and 20th centuries in the West. We will concern ourselves with questions regarding the nature of knowledge; the relative importance of reason, language, and history in gaining knowledge; the structure of the mind and its relationship to reality; and the place of the human being vis-à-vis nature and society.

Texts (“*” means “On reserve”)

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” * & “First Introduction” to *Critique of Judgment*, trans. Werner Pluhar*

Fichte, *Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre*

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 and the Communist Manifesto*

Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Ideals*

Bertrand Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*

Wittgenstein, *Philosophical Investigations* (selections) *

Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations* *

Heidegger, “Being and Time: Introduction,” in Farrell Krell (ed.), *Basic Writings**

Sartre, “Existentialism” in *Existentialism and Human Emotions* *

Horkheimer & Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*

Dewey, *Reconstruction in Philosophy*

Course Requirements

(1) Honor Code: It is assumed that you are familiar with the honor code and understand the implications of academic misconduct. Cheating on exams and quizzes will not be tolerated. If you’re caught cheating on the quizzes and exams, you will be referred to the honor council.

(2) Absence Policy: You will not be penalized for absences if you have a valid reason for being absent, or if you inform me in advance about missing a class. In cases of illness, a letter from the Student Health Center will be required. Three unexcused absences will cost you a letter grade.

(3) Requirements:

(a) As is usually the case, you will read the material in advance before we discuss it in class – so, for instance, when you come to class on August 31st you will have read the required pages from Kant.

(b) To ensure that you come prepared to class, I will assign homework after every class (via the Learnlink conference). You will have to send me this work via email to the following address: akumar6@emory.edu with the subject heading "Phil202: [Author] HW." The homework assigned for a Monday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Sunday, the homework assigned for a Wednesday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Tuesday, and the homework assigned for a Friday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Thursday. For the most part, homework will be directly related to the reading assigned for a class.

(c) The pace of the course will be dictated by our progress in class, and the syllabus may have to be changed to accommodate it. New versions of the syllabus (if required) will be sent to you in advance via the learnlink conference. CHECKING THE LEARNLINK CONFERENCE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

(d) There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. You will also be required to write an 8-10 page essay. You will have to write two drafts of this essay. There will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless you have a genuine reason for missing them (refer to Absence policy above).

Grading

Overall grades for the course will be calculated according to the following 1000-point scale:

A=	950-1000	B-=	800-832	D=	600-699
A-=	900-949	C+=	767-799	F=	Less than 600
B+=	867-899	C=	733-766		
B=	833-866	C-=	700-732		

The grade distribution is as follows:

Essay:	30% of the Grade
Final Exam:	25% of the Grade
Midterm:	20% of the Grade
Homework:	15% of the Grade
Class participation:	10% of the Grade

Grading Policy:

(i) Grading Homework: If you regularly do the work honestly and send it to me in time, you will get 15% of the grade. Every time you fail to do so, you will lose 10 points.

(ii) Grading the Exams & the Essay: Grading is relative to the class. I will give the best exam/essay an A, and grade the rest in terms of this exam/essay.

Note

"Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education."

Reading Schedule

August 29	Introduction
August 31	Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" & Kant, "First Introduction," §§I-IV (pp. 385-399)

September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 5	Kant, "First Introduction," §§V-XI (pp. 399-437)
September 7	Fichte, <i>Introductions</i> , "Preface" & "First Introduction," pp. 2-35
September 10	Fichte, <i>Introductions</i> , pp. 36-59
September 12	Fichte, <i>Introductions</i> , pp. 59-76
September 14	Fichte, <i>Introductions</i> , pp. 76-90
September 17	Fichte, <i>Introductions</i> , pp. 90-105
September 19	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Preface," pp. 1-33
September 21	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Preface," pp. 33-45 & "Introduction," pp. 46-57
September 24	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Sense-Certainty" & "Perception," pp. 58-79
September 26	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Force and the Understanding," pp. 79-103
September 28	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Self-Consciousness," pp. 104-119
October 1	Hegel, <i>Phenomenology</i> , "Absolute," pp. 479-493
October 3	Marx, <i>EPM</i> , "Preface," pp. 13-18 & "Estranged Labor," pp. 69-84
October 5	Marx, <i>EPM</i> , "Private Property" and "The Meaning of Human Requirements," pp. 99-134
October 8	Marx, <i>EPM</i> , 135-170; "Theses on Feuerbach" (or reserve)
October 10	Marx, <i>EPM</i> , 135-170 (cont.)
October 12	Midterm Examination
October 15-16 Fall Break	
October 17	Nietzsche, <i>Twilight</i> , pp. 3-42
October 19	Nietzsche, <i>Twilight</i> , pp. 43-81
October 22	Russell, <i>Problems</i> , pp. 7-46
October 24	Russell, <i>Problems</i> , pp. 46-82
October 26	Russell, <i>Problems</i> , pp. 82-118
October 29	Russell, <i>Problems</i> , pp. 119-161
October 31	Wittgenstein, <i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§ 1-38 (language games)
November 2	Wittgenstein, <i>Philosophical Investigations</i> §§ 243-315 (private language)
November 5	Husserl, <i>Cartesian Meditations</i> , "Introduction" & "First Meditation," pp. 1-26
November 7	Husserl, <i>Cartesian Meditations</i> , "Second Meditation," pp. 27-55

- November 9 Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, "Third Meditation," pp. 56-64
- November 12 Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, "Fourth Meditation," pp. 65-88
- November 14 Husserl (cont.) & Heidegger, "Being and Time: Introduction," pp. 41-63

First Draft of Essay Due

- November 16 Heidegger, "Being and Time: Introduction," pp. 41-63 (cont.)
- November 19 Heidegger, "Being and Time: Introduction," pp. 63-87

November 21-23 Thanksgiving Recess

- November 26 Sartre, "Existentialism," pp. 9-51
- November 28 Horkheimer & Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, pp. 1-35
- November 30 Horkheimer & Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, pp. 94-136
- December 3 Dewey, *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, pp. 1-30
- December 5 Dewey, *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, pp. 31-58
- December 7 Dewey, *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, pp. 59-91
- December 10 Dewey, *Reconstruction in Philosophy*, pp. 92-123
- December 14 **Final Exam, 9AM-12AM**

Final Draft of Essay Due