

PHIL 3334 (12:00-12:50, MWF), Spring 2013

GERMAN IDEALISM

Dr. Frank Schalow

Office, Liberal Arts, 383

Office hrs, 11:00-12:00, M, W, F

280-6815

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Prerequisites (The appropriate number of lower division phil. classes).

## SYLLABUS

**PURPOSE:** This course examines the most pivotal philosophers who comprise the German Idealist tradition of modern thought. Special attention will be given to addressing how the rationalist emphasis on methodology transforms the basic problems of epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy of science. Emphasis will also be placed on establishing the historical relevance of German Idealism, for example, its role in influencing later thinkers such as Marx, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** The student will become familiar with a central kind of argumentation which shaped the development of modern thought. The student will also become more skilled at articulating and criticizing various philosophical positions related to the German Idealist tradition of thought.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** At the completion of the course, the student will become successful in the following:

\*The student will be able to read both primary and secondary texts pertaining to German Idealism, including its major figures Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel

\*The student will be able to analyze arguments in their major writings.

\*The student will be able to recognize, entertain, and respond to criticism concerning their philosophical positions.

\*The student will be able to articulate and write lucidly on a specific position or topic and/or a major German Idealist thinker.

\* The student be able to understand and articulate the chief methodology of German Idealism, specifically, the dialectical method of thought as developed by Hegel.

\*The student will be capable of constructing basic philosophical arguments and criticisms.

**REQUIREMENTS:** The student is responsible for the material covered in both the readings and lectures. Class attendance and participation is required.

**GRADING:** The student's grade will be determined by an average of three grades two essay tests and a term paper. Each assignment counts 33.3% Class participation and attendance can impact the Student's grade as well. The topic for the paper must be approved in advance by the Professor. The paper is due on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A half letter grade will be deducted from the student's paper each day thereafter (beginning May 8<sup>th</sup>).

**STATEMENT of DISABILITY:** In accord with University policy, students with disabilities will be accommodated. It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Disability Services at UC 260, (504) 280-6222 (voice).

**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC Integrity:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluation of academic performance. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty.

**PAPER:** The term paper must be between 10 and 12 pages, doubled spaced, with proper Bibliographical Citations. The paper is due on May

**SCHEDULE**

Jan. 14 Intro.

16 Kant's *Critique* and its "Metacritique"

18 Fichte's idealism

23 Problems raised by and with Fichte

25 Schelling and the absolute

28 Schelling, art, and the philosophy of Nature

Feb. 1 Hegel's critique of Fichte and Schelling; See *Hegel: The Essential Writings*, "Foreword" (Findlay), p. xi and "Preface" (Weiss), p. xvi.

6 Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, "Preface"

8 Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*, "Intro."; *Hegel: The Essential Writings*, pp. 37-43.

13 cont.

15 "Sense-certainty" and "Perception", 44

18 "Understanding", pp. 86

20 The "Lordship and Bondage of Consciousness," 54

22 Review

25 Test #1

27 Subjective vs. Objective spirit.

Mar. Conscience and Morality, 256-283

4 The Development of Social Structures and Institutions, the Family, cont.

6 The State and the political, and the "Philosophy of Right," cont.

8 The role of language, 86-122

11 The ascent to Absolute Spirit: Art, 314-338

13 Religion and Philosophy, cont.

15 Construction of the System, Logic , pp, 1-19

18 Review

20 Test#2

22 Consultation and paper Day

April 1 Hegel's understanding of "science", pp.

3 The Split between Left-wing and Right-wing Hegelians

5 Paper Day

8 The rise of materialism

10 The influence of Feuerbach

12 paper day

15 The limits of Marx's materialism

17 Kierkegaard the philosophy of "read"

19 paper day

22 Kierkegaard, the system vs. the individual

26 The question of ethics

26 The re-turn to faith

28 Nietzsche, time and the anti-system

30 cont.

May 1 German Idealism and the End of a Tradition

3 Review

7 (Tues) Term papers due (10:00-12:00).