

McGill University
Department of Philosophy
19th Century Philosophy PHIL 367b (Winter 2011)

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Teaching Assistant: TBA

In this course we will study some of the most illustrious and complex continental thinkers of the nineteenth century. In the lectures we will pay particular attention to the ethical dimension in the philosophies of the nineteenth century. Some important nineteenth century thinkers such as Johann Fichte, G.W.F Hegel, Friedrich Schiller and Arthur Schopenhauer attempted to systematize human reason and spirit. Other philosophers, notably Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, were profoundly critical of system philosophies. They argued that an overemphasis on reason and coherence failed to do justice to the complexity and open ended nature of human being. Moreover, attempts to systematize human spirit signaled not only intellectual, but indeed, *moral impoverishment*.

The course will consist of two lectures a week and one conference with a teaching assistant in which you will have an opportunity to discuss the readings with your fellow students and with the teaching assistant.

For students who would like to get started on their reading right away, please start by reading *The Vocation of Man*.

Required Reading

Texts will be available at the Paragraphe Bookstore on McGill College. Texts will also be available on reserve at the library.

- Fichte, Johann. *The Vocation of Man* (in its entirety, please buy).
- Johann Fichte. *The Science of Knowledge* (very brief selections).
- Schiller, Friedrich. *On the Aesthetic Education of Mankind*, (in its entirety).
- Hegel, G.W.F. *Introduction to the Lectures on the History of Philosophy* (brief selection).
- Soren Kierkegaard. *Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Fragments* (very brief selections).
- Soren Kierkegaard. *Fear and Trembling* (in its entirety, please buy).
- Arthur Schopenhauer. Selections from *The World as Will and Representation Volumes I* (very brief selections).
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Birth of Tragedy. On Truth and Lying in an Extra Moral Sense* (in its entirety, please buy).
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Twilight of the Idols* (in its entirety, please buy).

Other brief readings may be added.

Recommended Reading

- Immanuel Kant. *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics*
- G.W.F. Hegel. *The Difference Between Fichte and Schelling's System of Philosophy*
- George di Giovanni. *Between Kant and Hegel*
- H.S. Harris. *Hegel: Phenomenology and System*
- Ludwig Feuerbach, *Principles of the Philosophy of the Future*

Method of Evaluation (to be confirmed once class numbers and TA hours are clear)

20% One midterm examination. There will be two short essay questions (500 words each) on the midterm. The midterm will be written over two classes.

35% One 1800-2000 word essay due in the . Students must keep rough drafts of their paper and hand them in along with their paper. All students must be prepared to discuss their paper with the instructor. Please use a duotang to keep all the papers together neatly. Late papers will lose 1% a day unless the student can document relevant illness or extenuating circumstances. Essays must be typed.

35% One final exam. There will be two essay questions on the final exam. Length TBA. Date TBA. The midterm, essay and final exam are graded on your understanding of the material you have been assigned to read, your understanding of the lectures, on your ability to draw on that material where relevant, and, on your ability to write in a clear, thoughtful and mature manner.

10% Participation. Each student must supply the instructor with one thoughtful question for class discussion for each of the ten Friday conferences. The questions should be from the assigned readings only, *not from the lectures*. The questions should demonstrate that the student has done the reading and has a carefully formulated and interesting question about the reading. The questions are due every Thursday morning at 10:00 am. Late submissions cannot be accepted for marks. Students will be able to submit their questions on Web CT.

If I have a message for students I will post it on Web CT so please check Web CT regularly. Please do not leave messages for me on Web CT, please email me at susan.hoffmann@mcgill.ca

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).