

14 Aug 2011

**FROM KANT TO HEGEL** (Philosophy 366A, 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Philosophy)  
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:35-3:55 p.m.; Leacock, Room 110

Instructor: Professor George di Giovanni

Office: Leacock 930; 514-398-6062

[george.di\\_giovanni@mcgill.ca](mailto:george.di_giovanni@mcgill.ca)

Office hours: for the moment, by appointment. Regular hours will be duly posted by the Philosophy Office.

**Description:** An introduction to German Idealism that includes (1) an account of the immediate background of Kant's critical theory; (2) an introductory account of Kant's theoretical and moral critical philosophy; (3) a detailed account of the idealism that followed upon Kant's critical revolution and of the circumstance behind this new development. Kant and Fichte will be the principal subjects of study, but a host of other figures will be treated as well.

Normal enrolment: 25-30 students.

Required readings: **(The mentioned texts are all available at Paragraphe Bookstore)**

(1) Friedrich Heinrich Jacobi, *The Main Philosophical Writings and the Novel 'Allwill'*, G. di Giovanni, tr. ed. (Kingston and Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1994), pp. 253-338, 605-617, 639-642. Excerpts from this volume. In past years, I have provided these excerpts in a special course-pack. However, the book is now available at Paragraphe bookstore at paperback price, which is just about the equivalent of the course-pack. Having the whole volume will much facilitate my teaching and your readings.

(2) Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, 1781, the excerpts listed just below. Numbers refer to standard pagination, i.e. the pagination of the first (A) and the second (B) edition (for the most part, though not in significant places, these two editions overlap). This pagination is included in margin in both the old Norman Kemp Smith translation and the more recent Cambridge translation (Guyer/Wood). The Norman Kemp Smith translation is now available on line at the WEB page of the North American Kant Society (NAKS.UCSD.EDU; go to "Smith's Translation"). You are advised to buy the new Guyer/Wood translation, but the older one is perfectly adequate. Note that these excerpts are **not** very extensive.

Prefaces to the first and second edition (Avii-xxii; B vii-xliv)

Introduction (A1/B5–A16/B30)

Transcendental Aesthetic (A19/B33–A49/B73)

The Principles of Any Transcendental Deduction (A84/B117–A95/B129)

The Transcendental Deduction of the B edition (B129–B175)

Refutation of Idealism (B274–279),

Phenomena and Noumena (A235/B294–A260/B315).

There is another translation by Pluhar. **I do not recommend it. This an abridged edition and does**

**not contain all the required passages.**

The first commentary of the *Critique* ever written (still the most concise and the clearest) is now available in English translation. I recommend it as an aid to the reading of Kant's work: Johann Schultz. *Exposition of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, tr. James C. Morrison (University of Ottawa Press, 1995). Unfortunately, I cannot order copies because it is out of print. It is, however, in the Library.

(3) Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, tr. Lewis White Beck. Despite the ponderous title, this is not a very big book; we shall read only parts of it.

(4) *Between Kant and Hegel: Texts in the Development of Post-Kantian Idealism*, tr., ed., with introductory essays by George di Giovanni and H.S. Harris, revised edition ed. G. di Giovanni (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2000):

1. George di Giovanni, 'The Facts of Consciousness', pp. 2-50.
2. K. L. Reinhold, 'The Foundations of Philosophical Knowledge', tr. ed. G. di Giovanni, in *Between Kant and Hegel*.
3. G.E. Schulze, 'Aenesidemus', tr. ed. G. di Giovanni, in *Between Kant and Hegel*.
4. J.G. Fichte, 'Review of Aenesidemus', tr. ed. G. di Giovanni, in *Between Kant and Hegel*, pp. 104-135.

(5) J.G. Fichte, The first and second *Introduction to the Science of Knowledge* 1797-98 (tr. D. Breazeale) in *J.G. Fichte: Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre and Other Writings* (Hackett, 1994).

**All the content of this course, and much more besides, is now to be found in George di Giovanni, *Freedom and Religion in Kant and His Immediate Successors: The Vocation of Humankind, 1774-1800* Cambridge: University Press, 2005). Paperback edition, 2007. Two copies are in the Library. A few copies will be available at Paragraphe Bookstore. This is not a required text.**

The main texts will also be placed on the reserve shelf at the Library.

**Tentative list of lecture topics (some topics will take up more than one lectures, some less):**

01. Introduction to the course
02. The Spinoza dispute
03. First preface to the Cr. of Pure Reason.
04. Second preface

05. Introduction to the Cr. of Pure R.
06. The Transcendental Esthetics
07. Introduction to the Transcendental Deduction
08. The transcendental Deduction
09. Refutation of Idealism
10. Noumena and Phenomena
11. Kant's Moral Philosophy
12. Jacobi's Dialogue, *David Hume*
13. Reinhold
14. Schulze/Aenesidemus
15. Maimon
16. Fichte
17. Schelling and Hegel
18. Conclusion

Brief description of the lectures will be posted on the WEBCT VISTA. These descriptions are only intended to orient you in the material of the course. Questions are to be raised in class for general discussions. E-mails are to be sent to me only for technical elucidations or special problems. I do not open attachments. I do not take attendance, but **you miss lectures and class discussions at your own risk.**

Requirements: Two short papers (about 2,000 words each; each 30% of final mark); one take-home examination (40% of final mark).

Topics for the first paper will be issued at the beginning of October and the papers will be due on the first lecture date of November. Topics for the second paper will be issued at the beginning of November and the papers will be due on the first lecture date of December. The examination text will be given at the last lecture. Although the examination is 'take home', it is formal. That means that examination papers will be due on the date determined by Faculty in the general

examination schedule.

**PLEASE NOTE: all TEXTS are at PARAGRAPH BOOKSTORE**

**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).**

**In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.**

**In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.**