

September 2013

**Phil. 366: GERMAN IDEALISM** (previously known as “18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Century German Philosophy”; CNR 5049)

Tuesday & Thursday, 4:05pm–5:25pm. Leacock 15.

Instructor: Professor George di Giovanni

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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 objects of study, but a host of other figures will be treated as well.

Normal enrolment: 25-30 students (this year might be more).

Required readings: **(The following texts, except Schultz’s commentary, are all available at Paragraphe bookstore)**

**(1)** Excerpts from 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; paperback, 2009). In past years, I have provided these excerpts in a special course-pack. However, the book is now available at Paragraphe bookstore in paperback edition 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. You can also try Amazon.

**(2)** Excerpts (listed below) from Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, 1781/1787. Numbers refer to standard pagination, i.e. the pagination of the first (A) and the second (B) edition (for the most part, these two editions overlap, though in some significant places this is not the case). This pagination is included in the 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: google “Critique of Pure Reason” and look for the Norman Kemp Smith translation. If you want to buy the text, you should buy the new Guyer/Wood translation, but the older 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 (B274-2790),

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

There are other translations which I do not recommend. The one by Pluhar **in an abridged edition and does not contain all the required passages**. The older by Max Müller is also not recommended.

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. Copies, however, are in the Library.

(3) Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, tr. Lewis White Beck. Despite the ponderous title, this is not a very big book.

(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). Assigned excerpts:

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.
3. G.E. Schulze, 'Aenesidemus', tr. ed. G. di Giovanni.
4. J.G. Fichte, 'Review of Aenesidemus', tr. ed. G. di Giovanni.

Besides the Paragraphe bookstore, you can also try Amazon.

(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).

### **Suggested reading:**

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. Copies are now available at Amazon at a decent price. **This is not a required text.**

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**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.**