

**McGill University**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy PHIL 367b (Fall 2013)**

Prof. Susan-Judith Hoffmann  
Office: Leacock 926  
Office hours: Thursdays from 3:30-4:30  
Telephone: 398-2143  
Email: susan.hoffmann@mcgill.ca  
Teaching Assistant: TBA

In this course we will study some of the most illustrious and complex continental thinkers of the nineteenth century, paying particular attention to the *moral dimension* in their thought. We will examine the role of reason, aesthetics and religion in their accounts of morality. We will study brief excerpts from the works of Schopenhauer, Hegel and Feuerbach, and will focus in particular on the philosophies of Nietzsche and Kierkegaard. We will read *The Birth of Tragedy*, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, as well as *Fear and Trembling*, in their entirety. We will be especially interested in Kierkegaard and Nietzsche's profound critique of reason and systematic philosophies. Both these thinkers argued that an overemphasis on reason and coherence failed to do justice to the complexity and open ended nature of human being. More importantly, 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 students will have an opportunity to discuss the readings with their fellow students and with the teaching assistant.

### ***Required Reading***

Texts will be available at the Paragraphe Bookstore on McGill College. The longer selections will be available on reserve at the library and the shorter excerpts will be posted on My Courses.

- Arthur Schopenhauer. *The World as Will and Representation Volume 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. *On the Genealogy of Morality* (in its entirety, please buy).
- G.W.F. Hegel. *The Phenomenology of Spirit* (excerpts from *Spirit*). We will read: (1) *The ethical world. Human and Divine Law: Man and Woman*; (2) *Ethical action. Human and Divine knowledge. Guilt and Destiny*; (3) *Conscience. The 'beautiful soul', evil and its forgiveness*.
- Soren Kierkegaard. *Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Fragments* (very brief selections).
- Soren Kierkegaard. *Fear and Trembling* (in its entirety, please buy).
- Ludwig Feuerbach. *The Essence of Christianity* (excerpts).

### ***Method of Evaluation***

Please note that the method of evaluation is subject to enrolment and may change at the beginning of the semester. I do not anticipate that a change in the evaluation is likely.

**25%** One midterm examination. There will be two short essay questions (500 words each) on the midterm. The midterm will be written over two classes, on October 21<sup>st</sup> and October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**35%** One 1500-2000 word essay. The paper is due on November 25<sup>th</sup> for students who would like their paper back by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. **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.

**30%** One final exam. 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, 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 scheduled 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. Students are expected to quote from, and, to refer to the reading in their question. Late submissions cannot be accepted for marks. Students must submit their questions on My Courses.

If I have a message for students I will post it on My Courses so please check My Courses regularly. Please do not leave messages for me on My Courses, please email me at [susan.hoffmann@mcgill.ca](mailto:susan.hoffmann@mcgill.ca)

Please note that eating and drinking is not permitted in class. Students who use laptops are kindly asked to restrict their activity to note taking so as not to disturb the concentration of their fellow classmates.

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).