

Major Philosophers II, 460

Topic for the 2014 Winter Term: Philosophy, *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*

2 sessions per week, 90 minutes each (Tue. & Thu. 4:05-5:35)

Location: Lea 14

Prerequisite, 107-366 (German Idealism) or the equivalent

Professor George di Giovanni, Leacock 930, 514-398-6060

george.di_giovanni@mcgill.ca (office hours to be posted)

Evaluation based on two papers (50% each); late papers without excuse will be penalized by ½ mark per lecture-day delay.

Description:

An in depth reading of the Introduction, the first four chapters, and chapters six and seven of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807). I shall first give a brief historical account, according to most recent scholarship on the subject, of how the *Phenomenology* was produced. Against this historical background I shall raise the conceptual issue—which will be our primary concern—of the nature of the *Phenomenology* as a philosophical work. Is the *Phenomenology* a misguided attempt at *a priori* history? Is it psychology? philosophical myth? what? The most obvious answer is that the *Phenomenology* is Hegel's introduction to his science of logic. But then we must understand what Hegel means by 'reason', and why he must turn to a historical account of the development of 'rationality' in order to define its nature.

This is a course that I give regularly, but each year I stress a different aspect of this very complex work of Hegel. For 2012, I plan to concentrate on the *Phenomenology* as a critique of Romantic subjectivism. Crucial to this criticism is Hegel's concept of Religion which he develops throughout the work but takes up formally only in Chapter VII.

Students will be expected to have read assigned texts for each session and to participate in class discussion. A detailed Syllabus will be posted on MyCourses in due time