

PHL 375 M Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Fall 2010)

Instructor: Prof. Ian Proops

Classroom: WAG 308

Meeting time: Tu/Th 3.30-5.00.

Course description

This course aims to examine all or most of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Having read some of Hegel's short, introductory works for orientation, we will tackle the *Phenomenology* in a systematic fashion, focusing on the following themes and topics: Sense-certainty, Consciousness and Self-Consciousness, the Hegelian Dialectic, the Concept of Spirit, Religion, and Absolute Knowledge. Hegel's work will be set in the context of earlier German Idealism, especially the ideas of Kant, Fichte and Schelling, but no previous familiarity with the work of these philosophers will be presupposed.

Office: WAG 209

Office hours: By appointment. *Important note: Please send me an e-mail (iproops[at]austin.utexas.edu) requesting a meeting **and mentioning some times you can definitely meet**. I will reply with a time I can make. **There's no need to send a preliminary e-mail asking if we can meet: during this term the answer will always be "yes."***

Requirements and Grading Policy

Three papers, spaced evenly over the course of the term, and a final in-class, timed writing assignment. The first two papers will each be five pages long (12, double spacing) and will each account for 25% of the grade, the final paper will be seven pages long and account for 30%. The in-class writing assignment will last for 45 minutes. It will count for 20% of the grade. Students will be required to do this exercise by hand (i.e., without a computer). Students will be required to re-write and re-submit the first two papers in the light of comments from the instructor. Both the draft and the re-submission will be graded (and each will account for 12.5% of the grade). In the case of the second paper one meeting of class will be reserved for students to pair up and discuss their draft several days before submitting it. Plus and minus grades will be used. As this is a writing-intensive class, we will also do short ungraded writing exercises in almost every class. I will collect a small sample of these exercises in order to monitor students' progress, but students' performance in these exercises will not be graded. Note: I will ask you to write these exercises *by hand*.

Policy on the use of computers in class

Use of computers in class is permitted but *strongly* discouraged. From past experience, I know that students with computers are tempted to spend class time reading e-mail or looking at *facebook*, etc. This degrades the quality of your education. Instead of checking e-mail/*facebook* before class, try re-reading your notes or reminding yourself of what puzzled you about the reading. This will make you more receptive to the material in the lecture and more able to participate in the discussion.

Policy on Plagiarism

Students found to have plagiarized will receive a failing grade for the class. Note that, depending on the particulars of the case, sanctions may well include further penalties imposed by the Dean. Further advice on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it will be given at the time of the first assignment.

Policy on late papers

Papers submitted late without a reasonable excuse (e.g., illness, documented with a doctor's note), will be docked one third of a grade for each part-day they are late. So a paper submitted more than 48 hours late but less than 72 hours late will be docked a whole grade; one more than 24 hours late but less than 48 hours late will be docked 2/3 of a grade (so, e.g., from B+ to B-). Papers submitted more than 72 hours late without a reasonable excuse will receive no credit.

Extra credit

There will be no extra credit assignments in this class.

Final Exam

There is no final exam for the class, but only an "in-class writing assignment" on the last day of classes.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

About the in-class writing exercise

The exercise will take 45 minutes and will take place in the final meeting of the class. You will see six questions at least a week in advance of the exercise. You will have to answer **three** of these six questions, which three being revealed by me at the start of the exercise. **So to be safe you will need to prepare answers to all six questions.** For each question you should aim to prepare an answer that will cover roughly 2-3 pages of a blue book double-spaced (i.e., writing on every other line). **You must bring your own blue book (or green book) to section. The exercise is closed-book (and closed notes). Except in the case of students with a medical note, no computers are allowed; so you will have to write by hand.** The exercise is worth 20% of the final grade. From the time the exercise is distributed (roughly a week ahead) students will be under exam conditions and shouldn't ask me for the answers to the questions assigned.

Special accommodations

Please be sure to notify me **at the beginning of the course** if you will need any special accommodations.

Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to revision and supplementation as the class proceeds. In particular, further secondary readings will be assigned as the class progresses. The readings assigned for a particular meeting should be read before the meeting in question.

Texts

Hegel, G. W. F., *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, available on the web at:
<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/re/parta.htm>

Hegel, G. W. F., *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, Leo Rauch, trans. (Indianapolis: Hackett), 1988.

Hegel, G. W. F. *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, Terry Pinkard, trans. and ed., Draft translation, 2008, in an English-German parallel text –available on-line at
http://web.mac.com/titpaul/Site/Phenomenology_of_Spirit_page.html

Stern, Robert: *The Routledge Guidebook to Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit* (Abingdon: Routledge), 2002.

Houlgate, Stephen, *An Introduction to Hegel: Freedom, Truth and History* (Oxford: Blackwell), 2005.

Beiser, Frederick, *Hegel* (Abingdon: Routledge), 2005.

Inwood, Michael, *A Hegel Dictionary* (Oxford: Blackwell), 1992.

Pinkard, Terry, *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press), 1996.

Readings

Th, Aug 26: Introductory meeting. No readings. (But students would be well-advised to start the readings for the next two meetings.)

Tu, Aug 31: Hegel's Biography: Beiser "Introduction."

Th, Sept 2: The Cultural and Intellectual Context, Beiser ch. 1.

Tu, Sept 7: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, 1-15; Houlgate, ch. 10, pp. 242-254, Inwood, entry on "religion, theology and philosophy of religion," 253-256, and entry on "Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion", 172-174.

Th, Sept 9: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, pp. 15-end of section "B", Houlgate, ch. 10, 254-275.

Tu, Sept 14: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion*, remaining pages. Beiser ch. 6. **First paper topics assigned.**

Th, Sept 16: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, 3-37. Inwood, entry on “Lectures on the Philosophy of History”, 166-172.

Tu, Sept 21: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, 38-68. Beiser, ch. 11. **First draft of first essay due.**

Th, Sept 23: Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*, 68-98. Houlgate, ch. 1.

Tu, Sept 28: *Phenomenology of Spirit* (hereafter “*PoS*”) “Introduction,” 69-85.

Th, Sept 30: *PoS*, 86-98, Stern, 43-59, Pinkard, 20-34.

Tu, Oct 5: *PoS*, 98-116, Houlgate, ch. 3. **Final draft of First Essay due. Second essay topics assigned.**

Th, Oct 7: *PoS*, 116-153, Stern, 59-70, Pinkard, 34-45.

Tu, Oct 12: *PoS*, 154-164, Stern, 71-83.

Th, Oct 14: **First draft of Second essay due. In-class peer discussion of drafts!** Note: Failure to bring your first draft to class will result in your earning only half the possible marks for this draft assignment.

Tu, Oct 19: *PoS*, 164-177, Stern, 83-85, Houlgate 67-71. **Revised first draft of second essay due.**

Th, Oct 21: *PoS*, 177-205, Houlgate, 71-78, Pinkard, 63-81.

Tu, Oct 26: *PoS*, 206-262, Stern, 97-109, Pinkard, 81-87.

Th, Oct 28: *PoS*, 263-307, Pinkard 87-92.

Tu, Nov 2: *PoS*, 307-344, Stern 119-124; Pinkard 92-111. **Final draft of Second essay due. Third essay topics assigned.**

Th, Nov 4: *PoS*, 344-431, Stern 124-133.

Tu, Nov 9: *PoS*, 432-477, Stern 135-150.

Th, Nov 11: *PoS*, 477-532, Stern, 151-168.

Tu, Nov 16: *PoS*, 533-625 (reading for this week and next), Stern, 168-182.

Th, Nov 18: Continue the reading from last week. **Third essay due.**

Tu, Nov 23: **In-class writing assignment questions assigned.**

Th, Nov 25: No class: Thanksgiving.

Tu, Nov 30: *PoS*, 625-720.

Th, Dec 2nd: **In-class writing assignment.**