7AAN2053
Nineteenth-Century Continental Philosophy
Syllabus – Academic year 2013/14

Basic information
Credits: 20
Module Tutor: Dr Sacha Golob
Office: 705, Philosophy Building
Consultation time: 12:00 – 13:00 Wed
Semester: First
Lecture time and venue: Tuesday 16:00-17:00, Venue TBC

Module description
This module introduces two of the most influential and subtle of modern philosophers: G.W.F. Hegel and Friedrich Nietzsche. Beginning with a brief overview of Kant’s philosophy, the course examines how Hegel and Nietzsche attempt, in very different ways, to refine, transform, or destroy the legacy of the Enlightenment. The focus, in particular, will be on the conception of the self, of normativity, and of the philosophical method, that emerges from texts such as Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit* and Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morality*. All texts will be studied in translation.

Learning outcomes
- a capacity to acquire a firm grasp of the philosophical content the most important developments in nineteenth-century philosophy
- an ability to ascertain the significance of works within their philosophical, historical and cultural background
- skill in the careful analysis of language and argument as a means of exposition, as an instrument of refutation and as a dialectical process of engaging with other philosophers

Assessment methods and deadlines
- **Formative assessment**: 1 x 2,000–3,000-word essay, due by end of semester or as otherwise instructed
- **Summative assessment**: 1 x 4,000-word essay, due 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday 21 January 2014
- **Note**: The initial lecture hour, 16:00–17:00, will be shared with students taking 6AANA032 19th Century Continental Philosophy, but they will otherwise be subject to different requirements.
Outline of lecture topics (plus suggested readings)

Readings marked ‘*’ are available online – either via Library E-Resources or by Keats.

(1) The Enlightenment Legacy: Kant on the Self
Kant, ‘An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?’ in Kant’s Political Writings ed.Reiss and trans.Nisbet, pp.54-60.

(2) Introducing Hegel: History, Society, Dialectic

(3) Hegel on Intentionality: From Kant to McDowell

(4) Hegel on Recognition: ‘The Master-Slave Dialectic’

(5) Hegel on Freedom and Ethics
Beiser, F., Hegel (London: Routledge, 2005), ch.9.*

(6) Introducing Nietzsche: Genealogy and Truth

(7) Nietzsche on the Slave Revolt: The Attack on ‘Morality’

(8) Nietzsche on Socialization: Bad Conscience and the Birth of Norms

(9) Nietzsche on Asceticism, Christianity, and Science

(10) Two Visions: Ethical Life and the Sovereign Individual
Suggested essay questions

(1)  What are the attractions, if any, of Hegel’s account of history?
    OR
    ‘It has gradually become clear to me what every great philosophy up till now has consisted in —
    namely, unconscious autobiography’ (Nietzsche). Discuss.

(2)  Is the ‘myth of the given’ a genuine problem? How plausible is McDowell’s ‘Hegelian solution’?
    OR
    In what sense is Hegel an idealist? Is that sense incompatible with realism?

(3)  ‘Free will is the unencumbered ability of an agent to do what she wants’. Discuss with reference
    to Hegel.

(4)  What if, anything, is shown by Hegel’s ‘Master-Slave Dialectic’?

(5)  Does Nietzsche think there is no truth? Is that thought self-refuting?

(6)  Are Nietzsche's criticisms of morality convincing?

(7)  How plausible is Nietzsche’s account of the ascetic ideal?
### Suggested additional readings by lecture topic

Readings marked ‘*’ are available online – either via Library E-Resources or by Keats.

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<tr>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Extended Secondary Reading</strong></td>
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<td>Burbridge, ‘Hegel’s Conception of Logic’ in Beiser (ed.), <em>Cambridge Companion to Hegel</em> (Cambridge: CUP 2009).*</td>
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<td>Korsgaard, <em>Sources of Normativity</em> Cambridge: CUP 1996), ch. 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Franco, <em>Hegel’s Philosophy of Freedom</em> (London: Yale University Press), ch.5</td>
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## Suggested additional readings by lecture topic (Cont.)

### (6) Introduction to Nietzsche: Genealogy and Truth


**Extended Secondary Reading**


### (7) Nietzsche and the Slave Revolt: The Attack on ‘Morality’


**Extended Secondary Reading**


### (8) Nietzsche and Socialization: Bad Conscience and the Birth of Norms


May, S. *Nietzsche's Ethics and His War on Morality* (Oxford: OUP, 1999), ch.4.

**Extended Secondary Reading**


### (9) Nietzsche on Asceticism, Christianity, and Science


**Extended Secondary Reading**


### (10) Two Visions: Ethical Life and the Sovereign Individual
