Basic information
Credits: 15 
Module Tutor: Dr Sacha Golob
Office: 705, Philosophy Building
Consultation time: 1200-1300 Tue; 1200-1300 Wed.
Semester: Second
Lecture time and venue: 1300 Tue in K-1.14.

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

- The capacity to acquire a firm grasp of the philosophical content of 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:** Two x 1500 word essays.
- First essay due 1600 Fri 26th Feb 2016
- Second essay due 1600 Fri 8th April 2016
- **Summative assessment:** Two x 2500 word essays.
- Both due 1200 (Noon) Thurs 19th May 2016
Outline of lecture topics plus suggested readings

Readings marked ‘**’ are available online – either via Library Search or by Keats. If possible you should read this material before the lecture.

(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
OR
Beiser, F., Hegel (London: Routledge, 2005), ch.11.*

(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?

(8) ‘Nietzsche’s criticisms of modern science betray a total failure to understand its aims or
   practices’. Discuss.
Suggested additional readings by lecture topic
Readings marked * are available online – either via Library Search or by Keats.

(1) The Enlightenment Legacy: Kant on the Self

(2) Introducing Hegel: History, Society, Dialectic
Wartenberg, ‘Hegel’s Idealism’ in Beiser (ed.), Cambridge Companion to Hegel (Cambridge: CUP 2009).*
Beiser, F., Hegel (London: Routledge, 2005), ch.11.*

Extended Secondary Reading
Burbridge, ‘Hegel’s Conception of Logic’ in Beiser (ed.), Cambridge Companion to Hegel (Cambridge: CUP 2009).*
Beiser, F., Hegel (London: Routledge, 2005), chs.3-4.*

(3) Hegel on Intentionality: From Kant to McDowell

Extended Secondary Reading

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

Extended Secondary Reading

(5) Hegel on Freedom and Ethics
Uleman, J. An Introduction to Kant’s Ethics. (Cambridge: CUP, 2010), chs.1-2.*

Extended Secondary Reading
Korsgaard, Sources of Normativity Cambridge: CUP 1996), ch. 3
Franco, Hegel’s Philosophy of Freedom (London: Yale University Press), ch.5

(6) Introduction to Nietzsche: Genealogy and Truth
(7) Nietzsche and the Slave Revolt: The Attack on ‘Morality’
May, S., Nietzsche's Ethics and His War on Morality (Oxford: OUP, 1999), chs. 1-3*.

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
Katsafanas, ‘Nietzsche and Kant on the Will’, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 2012 (no vol. number allocated yet – access online).*

(9) Nietzsche on Asceticism, Christianity, and Science
May, S., Nietzsche's Ethics and His War on Morality (Oxford: OUP, 1999), ch.8.*
Clark, M., Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy (Cambridge: CUP, 1990), ch.6.

Extended Secondary Reading
May, S., Nietzsche's Ethics and His War on Morality (Oxford: OUP, 1999), ch.8.*

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