

HEGEL

Prof. Steven Levine
Phil 455, Spring 2022

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Office Hours: On Zoom, Tuesday 2-4, repeating link: <https://umassboston.zoom.us/j/94546506271>
Also by appointment

Course Description

In this class we are going to read large portions of Hegel's major work the *Phenomenology of Spirit*. We shall read this work as completing Kant's Copernican turn in philosophy and so as ushering in a non-skeptical and non-metaphysical form of Idealism (Idealism being the claim that Thought and Being ultimately have the same logical structure). This reading contrasts with more traditional readings that see Hegel as a philosopher who propagates a monistic pre-critical metaphysical system and/or a non-standard Christian theodicy. In articulating this thesis, Hegel discusses an amazing amount of topics, including sense-perception, desire, natural laws, self-consciousness, freedom, the relation of masters and slaves, stoicism, skepticism, the alienation of Christian consciousness, Kant's moral philosophy, ancient Greek tragedy (Antigone), the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the terror, and the possibility of forgiveness.

Required Texts

- Hegel, G. F. W. *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Trans. by T. Pinkard, Cambridge University Press. (PhS).
- Stern, R., *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit*, Routledge Press. (RG)
- All other readings posted on my website: <http://faculty.www.umb.edu/steven.levine/>

Secondary Sources:

German Idealism

- Pinkard, Terry, *German Philosophy: 1760-1880*, Cambridge.
- Beiser, Frederick, *The Fate of Reason: German Philosophy from Kant to Fichte*, Harvard.
- Eckart Förster, *The Twenty-five Years of Philosophy*, Harvard.

Hegel

- Houlgate, Stephen, *An Introduction to Hegel: Freedom, Truth, and History*, 2nd edition, Wiley.
- Taylor, Charles, *Hegel and Modern Society*, Cambridge.
- Pippin, Robert, *Hegel's Idealism*, Cambridge.
- Kojève, Alexandre, *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel*, Cornell.

Guides to the *Phenomenology of Spirit*

- Houlgate, Stephen, *Hegel Phenomenology of Spirit: A Readers Guide*, Continuum. (Digital copy available through the library)
- Ludwig Siep, *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*, Cambridge University Press.
- Pinkard, Terry, *Hegel's Phenomenology*, Cambridge.
- Hyppolite, Jean, *Genesis and Structure of Hegel's Phenomenology*, Northwestern.

General Papers on Hegel and *The Phenomenology of Spirit*

- Pinkard, 'Hegel, A Life'
- Pippin, 'You Can't Get There from Here: Transition Problems in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*'
- J. Stewart, 'The Architectonic of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*'

Course Outline (This schedule is subject to revision)

Week	Date	Class Theme and Activities	Assignment
Week 1	Jan. 25-27	Review of Syllabus and Introduction to the <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i>	
Week 2	Feb. 1-3	Fichte: Idealism and Dogmatism	Fichte, "First Introduction" to the <i>Wissenschaftslehre</i>
Week 3	Feb 8-10	Hegel's Method	PhS, § 73-89 RG: pp., 36-42 Recommended: S. Houlgate, 'The Method of Phenomenology'
Week 4	Feb. 15-17	Consciousness: Sense-Certainly	PhS, § 90-110 RG, pp., 43-50 Recommended: W. DeVries, 'Sense-Certainty and the "This-Such" C. Taylor, 'The Opening Arguments of the Phenomenology'
Week 5	Feb. 22-24	Consciousness: Perception Feb. 22: First Reading Comprehension Assignment Due	PhS § 111-131 RG, pp., 51-58 Recommended: S Houlgate, 'Perception'
Week 6	March 1-3	Understanding and the Transition to Self-Consciousness	RG, pp., 59-66 (On Force and the Understanding) PhS, § 166-177 RG, pp., 66-75 Recommended: A. Honneth, 'From Desire to Recognition: Hegel's Account of Human Sociality' R. Pippin, 'On Hegel's Claim that Self-Consciousness is 'Desire Itself''

Week 7	March 8-10	Self-Consciousness: Lordship and Bondage	PhS, § 178-196 RG, pp. 75-85 Recommended: F. Neuhouser, 'Desire, Recognition, and the relation between Bondsman and Lord' R. Brandom, 'The Structure of Desire and Recognition' P. Redding, 'The Independence and Dependence of Self-Consciousness' J. McDowell, 'Toward a Heterodox Reading of "Lordship and Bondage" in Hegel's Phenomenology'
		Spring Break	
Week 8	March 22-24	Self-Consciousness: Stoicism, Skepticism, and the Unhappy Consciousness	PhS, § 197-230 RG, pp., 85-96 Recommended: F. Chiereghin, 'Freedom and Thought: Stoicism, Skepticism, and Unhappy Consciousness'
Week 9	March 29-31	The Transition to Reason	PhS, § 231-239 RG, pp., 97-102 Recommended: C. Ferrini, 'The Challenge of Reason: From Certainty to Truth'
Week 10	April 5-7	Observing Reason: Physiognomy and Phrenology April 5: Second Reading Comprehension Assignment Due	Ph.S, § 309-347 RG, 102-114 Recommended: A. Macintyre, 'Hegel on Faces and Skulls' M. Quante, 'Reason...Apprehended Irrationally: Hegel's Critique of Observing Reason'
Week 11	April 12-14	Active Reason: The Actualization of Rational Self-Consciousness through Itself	PhS, § 347-393 RG, 114-124 Recommended: T. Pinkard, 'Shapes of Active Reason: The Law of the Heart, Retrieved Virtue, and What really Matters'
Week 12	April 19-21	Active Reason: The Spiritual Animal Kingdom and Deceit	PhS, § 394-417 RG, pp., 124-7

		<i>April 21: Course Withdrawal Deadline</i>	Recommended: R. Pippin, 'Freedom of the Will: Social Dimension', Chapter 6 of <i>Hegel's Practical Philosophy</i> Brandom, 'Hegel's Expressive Metaphysics of Agency'
Week 13	April 26-28	The Critique of Kant and the Transition to Spirit: Reason as Lawgiving and as Testing	PhS, § 418-436 RG, pp., 127-133 Recommended: D. Hoy, 'The Ethics of Freedom: Hegel on Reason as Law-Giving and Law-Testing'
Week 14	May 3-5	Spirit: The Ethical Order	PhS, § 437-475 RG, pp. 135-147 Recommended: M. Farneth, 'Gender and the Ethical Given: Human and Divine Law in Hegel's Reading of Antigone' J. Hoy, 'Hegel, Antigone, and Feminist Critique: The Spirit of Ancient Greece'
Week 15	May 10	Open Class	

Assessable Tasks

1. Class Participation, 10%
2. Two 3-4 page reading comprehension assignments, the first due **February 22nd**, the second due **April 5th**. Each assignment is worth 25% of your grade. These are short answer take-home assignments where you will be asked to analyze and explicate passages from the *Phenomenology*. The aim of these assignments is to enhance your ability to read and comprehend Hegel's text.
3. An 8-10 page final paper due on **May 20th**. This assignment is worth 40% of your final grade. For the final paper you are to make an argument, either interpretive or analytical, about a given topic in Hegel. You must discuss with me the thesis of the paper and use at least two sanctioned secondary sources when writing this paper.

Attendance Policy

Your presence in class is a minimum condition of your success in this course. Attendance as well as lateness will be noted and factored into your final grade, as follows:

- 3 absences: final grade lowered by ½ grade (e.g. from B- to C+)
- 4 absences: final grade lowered by a full grade (e.g. from B- to C-)
- 5 absences: failure; no credit given

In general, the distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences is not recognized (an absence is an absence). Repeated lateness in arriving to class will count as an absence.

Other Important Information

- Unless otherwise noted readings, handouts, assignments, and other announcements will be posted on my website which can be reached by clicking the link on my faculty page located on the UMB philosophy department website or at this address:
<http://faculty.www.umb.edu/steven.levine/>
- You need to have a working UMB email so that I can contact you through the wiser system.
- The readings for this class are listed above by the week. If homework is not explicitly assigned in class, these readings are your homework. The reading schedule may change due to events. If it does I will update the schedule on my website.
- Unless an arrangement is made with me, an assignment will be penalized a whole grade if it is up to one week late. Thereafter, it will be penalized a whole grade each additional week that it is late. *I do not accept emailed assignments unless I explicitly agree to it.*

Policy on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's work as your own. You need to be careful to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism. This means that if you ever use a phrase, a sentence, or an idea from a text, you must provide a citation. If it is something we read for the class, it is acceptable to give the source and page number. E.g.: (Rawls, "The Justification of Civil Disobedience, p. 100). When utilizing other material, you must provide full bibliographic information of that text. If you don't provide appropriate citations, this will affect your grade. If you have gone so far as to misrepresent another person's work as your own by copying from another's paper, using a paper writing service, copying something off the web or out of a book or in any other way I will assume you intend to commit plagiarism and will give you an 'F.' The current Code of Student Conduct which includes information about academic dishonesty is available online at:

<http://www.umb.edu/academics/undergraduate/office/students/CodeofStudentConduct.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Ross Center for Disability Services. The Ross Center for Disability Services is located in the Campus Center, UL 211. You can contact them by calling: 617-287-7430 or sending an email to: ross.center@umb.edu. Once you have received your accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.