

Philosophy

From Kant to Hegel

Developments in German Classic Philosophy

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

The central objective of this course is to introduce students to the developments of the German classic philosophy by investigating two of the most important figures of that period: Kant and Hegel.

In the first part of the semester, the student will be introduced to the central issues of Kant's criticism; in particular we will study his famous Critique of Pure Reason, presented and discussed through the reading of selected passages and critical literature. This will allow the student to gain an understanding of Kant's pivotal role in Western philosophical culture.

The second part will focus on the development of post-kantian philosophy in the German environment, in particular on the theory of Hegel's objective idealism. His systematic-encyclopedic, ontological approach emerged coherently from the post-Kantian tradition, but, eventually, substantially modified Kant's view, providing future philosophers with a very influential model - at least in the continental context -, which became a privileged reference point for both followers and opponents. The main focus will be on the Phenomenology of Spirit and Science of Logic.

Course Hours

Course meets twice a week for a total of 45 hours. Suggested credits: 3.

Learning expectations:

1. To familiarize students with the philosophical concepts, language, and terms of classical German philosophy.
2. To acquire analytical tools so as to further study these authors on their own.
3. To increase awareness on philosophical themes and issues in general, and within their historical context in particular.
4. To introduce students to a reading of the original texts and critical literature.
5. To provide a better understanding of the development of Western philosophy in that period.
6. To learn how to write, present, and discuss philosophical themes.

Grading System

Participation and Attendance: 30%

Mid-term exam: 20%

Response papers: 15%

Final exam: 20%

Research essay: 15%

Grading Scale

98-100 A+	88-89.99 B+	78-79.99 C+	68-69.99 D+
93-97.99 A	83-87.99 B	73-77.99 C	63-67.99 D
90-92.99 A-	80-82.99 B-	70-72.99 C-	60-62.99 D-
<59.99 F			

Assignments and Exams

Each week there will be assigned reading: students are expected to carefully read and analyze the readings and to write a response paper underling at least three key points and commenting on them in order to participate actively in the discussion that will follow in class.

To deepen the understanding of the theme, students are also required to choose two topics and to write a **research essay** (at least 5,000 words) on a subject decided with the professor. It has to include footnotes and bibliography. Plagiarism will result automatically in the grade of “F” and any exception will result in a lowering of your grade.

Midterm and final written exams consist of some questions (both multiple-choice and open questions) and short essays on the topics presented in class.

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor during the semester regarding their main interests and ideas to further guide their areas of inquiry related to sustainable practices.

Course Policy

Academic Integrity:

Effective learning, teaching and research all depend upon the ability of members of the academic community to trust one another and to trust the integrity of work that is submitted for academic credit or conducted in the wider arena of scholarly research. Such an atmosphere of mutual trust fosters the free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential.

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged, and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Faculty, students, and administrative staff all share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at the Siena Art Institute and Siena School for Liberal Arts.

Students with documented disabilities:

Any student who has a documented disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate the

educational opportunity.

Participation and Attendance:

We consider attending class a crucial part of gaining the most from your study abroad experience. For this reason, we allow only **one unexcused absence** per course during the 15 weeks of the program. This means that you are only allowed to miss **one** lesson of each course for unexcused reasons. Reasons for an absence to be considered unexcused include absences related to personal travel (including delays, strikes, missed connections, etc.) or visits from family and friends.

In addition, being late to class on **4** occasions constitutes an unexcused absence. Please also consider that leaving before the end of the lesson or coming back late from a break is the equivalent of an unexcused absence.

Participation and attendance is worth 30% of the overall grade for every class.

Absences due to health-related issues are considered excused if the student informs the professor and office by email or phone before class begins.

No make-up exams or critiques will be considered unless warranted by extreme circumstances [for example, health, family tragedy] supported with proper documentation.

Regular attendance, punctuality at and participation in all class meetings and field-trips are required and mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes; absences will affect your course grade. Each lecture will cover a wide range of material and missed information will be difficult to obtain. If you do miss a class for whatever reason, you are responsible for photocopying a fellow classmate's lecture notes.

Late submissions

All writing assignments are to be completed strictly on time. Research papers will incur a 5% penalty for every day over the submission date. Papers will not be

accepted for consideration and grading after 1 week.

Electronic devices

Students are kindly requested not to use laptops, tablets or cell phones in class. We shall be fostering an environment of very human, face-to-face interactions. Electronic devices only when, and if, they are explicitly required for an exercise, please!

Text book and required materials:

All readings will be provided in the course reader pack and with PDF. Students are not required to purchase a textbook. However, it is important to note that the use of supplementary text will be looked favorably upon for completion of assignments.

Course Outline

Week 1

Introduction. General historical and philosophical background. Rationalism vs. Empiricism.

General Introduction on the development from Kant to Hegel.

Reading. Hand-outs. **8**: xi-xxv;

Week 2

Kant. General overview on his thought.

Critique of Pure Reason. General introduction

Reading. **4**: p. 46-73. **11**: p. 1-16

Week 3

Critique of Pure Reason. Transcendental aesthetic.

Reading: **1**: selected page. **4**: p. 1-8.

Critique of Pure Reason. Transcendental analytic.

Reading. **1**: selected page; **4**: p. 8-13.

Week 4

Critique of Pure Reason. Transcendental dialectic

Reading. **1**: selected page; **4**: p. 13-19.

Views on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason

Reading. **9**: p. 17-25, p. 48-60. **10**: p. 19-44. **11**: p. 33-44

Week 5

Review

Midterm exam

Week 6

Hegel. General overview of his thought

Reading. **11**: p. 23-29, p. 51-62.

Phenomenology of Spirit. General introduction.

Reading. **2**: selected pages. **5**: p. v-xxx.

Week 7

Phenomenology of Spirit

Reading. **2**: selected pages. **10**: p. 217-245

Week 8

Science of Logic. Being and Essence

Reading. **3**: selected pages. **6**: xi-lxii

Week 9

Science of Logic. Concept

Reading. **3**: selected pages. **10**: p. 246-265

Week 10

Overview of post hegelian philosophy

Reading. 11: p. 198-236

Final review

Week 11

Final exam

Literature

1. Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, Translated and Edited by P. Guyer and A. W. Wood, Cambridge University Press, 1998.
2. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Translated by A. V. Miller with Analysis of the Text and Foreword by J. N. Findlay, Oxford University Press, 1977.
3. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *The Science of Logic*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
4. P. Guyer, A Wood, Introduction to 1, p. 1-80.
5. J. N. Findlay, Forward to 2, p. v-xxx.
6. G. di Giovanni, Introduction to 3, p. xi-lvii.
7. *German Idealist Philosophy*, Edited and with Introductions by Rudiger Bubner, Penguin Books, 1997,
8. Bubner, Introduction to 11, p. ix-xxv
9. Frederick C. Beiser, *German Idealism. The Struggle against Subjectivism, 1781–1801*, HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England 2002, p. 17-25, p. 48-60.
10. Terry Pinkard, *German Philosophy, 1760-1860. The Legacy of Idealism*, Cambridge University Press, 2002.
11. *The Routledge Companion to Nineteenth Century Philosophy*, edited by Dean Moyar, Routledge, New York, 2010.