

Phil 3020: Nineteenth Century Philosophy
Fall 2009 MWF 1:25-2:15
Peabody 220

Prof. Elizabeth Brient
Office: 1A Peabody Hall (access through office 1 in basement of Peabody Hall)
Phone: 583-0668
Office hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 and by appointment
Email: ebrient@uga.edu (re: PHIL3020)

Course Description:

Nineteenth century philosophy is in large part an examination of the potential, problems, and paradoxes of distinctively modern forms of thought and action, forms that broke with traditional intellectual, cultural, economic, political, and religious approaches, institutions, and practices. Since examination of the status and fate of "modernity" is a central focus of much 20th century and contemporary intellectual and cultural debates, the themes of nineteenth century philosophy are still very much alive in current philosophical discourse. We will focus in particular on the way in which 19th century thinkers reflected on and developed sophisticated conceptions of the historicity of human beings. If human nature is not a static, universal "given," but rather, historically dynamic and historically determined, then new and interesting philosophical questions emerge. The two central questions around which this course is organized are: Is there a pattern or meaning to human history as a whole? What is the relationship between time and human freedom? Readings will be drawn from Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, & Bergson.

Required Texts:

G.W.F. Hegel: *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett)
Soren Kierkegaard: *The Essential Kierkegaard* (Princeton University Press)
Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (Cambridge)
Henri Bergson, *Time and Free Will* (Dover or Elibron)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading of all assigned material, regular attendance and participation in class discussions
 - Students who miss the equivalent of six classes, for whatever reason, will be subject to academic withdrawal.
 - Attendance, class participation and improvement will be taken into account to resolve borderline cases regarding the final grade for the course.
- 2) Three 5-6 page papers (each worth 25% of grade)
Final exam (worth 25% of grade)

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. All assignments are to be read **prior** to class on the date assigned.*

Tentative Syllabus:

Aug.	17	Introduction
	19	Hegel: <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of History</i> , Translator's Introduction (pp. vii-xii), Chapter One (pp. 3-11), and Appendix (pp. 99-106)
	21	Discussion

	24	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 2 (pp. 12-18)
	26	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 19-29)
	28	Discussion
Sept.	31	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 30-40)
	2	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 40-56)
	4	Discussion
	7	Labor Day (No Classes)
	9	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 3 (pp. 40-56)
	11	Discussion
	14	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 4 (pp. 57-70)
	16	Hegel: <i>Philosophy of History</i> , Chapter 4 (pp. 71-82)
	17	First paper due on <u>Thursday</u>: Give it to the secretary in the Philosophy Department main office (Peabody Hall, Room 107) by 4:00 p.m.
	18	Discussion
	21	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "Fear and Trembling," pp. 91-101, and "Philosophical Fragments," pp. 116-125
	23	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "The Book on Adler," pp. 411-423
	25	Discussion
	28	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "The Concept of Anxiety," pp. 138-155
	30	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 186-198
Oct.	2	Discussion
	5	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 198-215
	7	Kierkegaard: <i>The Essential Kierkegaard</i> , "Concluding Unscientific Postscript," pp. 215-229
	8	2nd Paper due on <u>Thursday</u>: Give it to the secretary in the Philosophy Department main office (Peabody Hall, Room 107) by 4:00 p.m.
	9	Discussion
	12	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part I
	14	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part I
	16	Discussion
	19	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part II
	21	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part II
	23	Discussion
	26	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part III
	28	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part III
	30	Fall Break (No Classes)
Nov.	2	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part IV
	4	Nietzsche, Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Part IV
	5	3rd Paper due on <u>Thursday</u>: Give it to the secretary in the Philosophy Department main office (Peabody Hall, Room 107) by 4:00 p.m.
	6	Discussion

	9	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 1-39
	11	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 39-74
	13	Discussion
	16	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 75-106
	18	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 107-139
	20	Discussion
	23	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
	25	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
	27	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
	30	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 140-183
Dec.	2	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 183-221
	4	Discussion
	7	Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will</i> , pp. 222-240
	8	Discussion (Tuesday: UGA operates on a Friday class schedule)