

## PHIL 314 (A01): 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Philosophy

CRN# TBD

MTh 10:00-11:20, ROOM TBD

**Instructor:** Dr. Thomas Land

**Office:** CLE B 331

**Office Hours:** Tue 1:30-3:00 and by appt.

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### Course Description

This course surveys the thought of some of the major figures in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Western philosophy. We begin with the philosophical movement known as German Idealism and discuss works by Fichte and Hegel. Next we consider two attempts to overcome idealism while preserving some of its central insights. These are Schopenhauer's metaphysics of the will and Marx's historical materialism. In the final part of the course we study Nietzsche's account of the nature of (moral as well as non-moral) value.

Though centered on metaphysics and epistemology (broadly conceived), the course covers a wide range of topics, some of which belong to other areas of philosophy such as ethics and social philosophy. Topics include a priori knowledge; self-consciousness; mutual recognition; the nature of subjectivity; the principle of sufficient reason; freedom; history; human nature; labor; ideology; philosophical methodology; perspectivism and truth; the nature of value.

Almost all of the authors covered in this course are white males from a few Western European countries. This lack of ethnic, gender and geographic diversity is in part a reflection of the socio-economic realities of the period and in part the result of the forces at work in philosophical canon formation. It should not be taken to suggest that there were no other thinkers worth studying during the period, including ones providing different perspectives.

### Learning Outcomes

This course has three main objectives. By successfully completing this course you will

- (i) acquire familiarity with a number of highly influential philosophical positions;
- (ii) come to understand some of the considerations motivating these positions as well as some of the problems they face;
- (iii) and hone important analytical skills. These include reading and analyzing difficult philosophical texts; constructing and assessing arguments; articulating and communicating complex ideas; and composing philosophical essays.

### Course Website

This course has an associated website on UVic's *Brightspace* tool. This will be used for assignments, communication, and to make available additional materials. To access your customized *Brightspace* page, sign in to UVic and click on *Online Tools*. You should see *Brightspace* as an option. If you are unable to access *Brightspace*, please contact me.

### Texts

Readings for this course will be made available via three different channels: (i) books you are required to purchase, (ii) electronic books available through the UVic library's website, and (iii) texts distributed through the *Brightspace* course website.

The following book is required and available for purchase at the UVic Bookstore:

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morality*, translated, with introduction and notes, by Maudemarie Clark and Alan Swensen. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998.

The following three required books are available in electronic format through the UVic library:

G.W.F. Hegel, *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Basic Outline, Part 1: Science of Logic*, edited by Klaus Brinkman and Daniel Dahlstrom, Cambridge/New York: Cambridge UP, 2015. [https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC\\_INST/12198k2/alma9957698433807291](https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC_INST/12198k2/alma9957698433807291)

G.W.F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, edited and translated by Terry Pinkard and Michael Baur, Cambridge/New York: Cambridge UP, 2018. [https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC\\_INST/12198k2/alma9957697114107291](https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC_INST/12198k2/alma9957697114107291)

Arthur Schopenhauer, *The World as Will and Representation*, vol. 1, translated by Judith Norman and Alistair Welchman, edited by Christopher Janaway. Cambridge/New York: Cambridge UP, 2014. [https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC\\_INST/12198k2/alma9957695557907291](https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC_INST/12198k2/alma9957695557907291)

Additional readings will be made available on *Brightspace*.

### Course Format

A mix of lecture and discussion, with some group work components. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material in detail. So you need to read the material carefully and take good notes. Many of the readings are dense; some passages you will need to go over more than once. You also need to read slowly and take notes. In particular, note points that are unclear, seem implausible etc. and ask about these class.

### Evaluation

#### a. Requirements

There are five requirements for this course, which are as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Attendance	N/A	5%
Participation	N/A	5%
5 Quote and Comment	Wednesdays at 11:00pm	6% each
Midterm Paper	Released: Oct 6, <b>Due: Oct 22</b>	25%
Final Paper	Released: Dec 2, <b>Due: Dec 18</b>	35%

#### *Attendance*

You are required to attend class, and attendance will be taken. You are permitted **two** unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Any additional unexcused absence will count toward your attendance mark. For more information on acceptable excuses, see 'Academic Concessions' below.

A passing attendance grade is a minimum condition on achieving a passing grade in the course. In other words, if you miss more than 13 classes you will fail the course regardless of your overall grade.

### *Participation*

Participation comes in two main forms: contributing to in-person class discussion and posting to the discussion forum on *Brightspace*. Ideally, you participate regularly in both of these ways. Asking a question is a valid (indeed, important) form of participation. Both quantity and quality of contributions are considered in assessing participation.

The discussion forum is intended to supplement, not replace, in-class discussion. While in-class participation is a required component of this course, I recognize that there are different learning styles. If you find it difficult to participate in discussion, please talk to me, so we can work out a viable strategy for facilitating your participation.

### *Quote and Comment*

This is a short assignment (up to one page), in which you are given a short passage from an assigned reading and asked to do two things: (i) explain what the passage says; (ii) explain how the passage contributes to the overall argument of the text from which it is taken.

A Quote and Comment assignment will be available each week during Weeks 2-11 (i.e., *not* during the first and last week of the semester), and you must complete a total of **five**. The choice of weeks is up to you.

Quote and Comment assignments are due on Wednesdays at 11:00pm (in Weeks 2-11).

### *Midterm Paper*

A short paper of 3-4 pages on an assigned topic, with a focus is on exposition and argument analysis, i.e. stating and explaining the position advocated in a selected reading.

### *Final Paper*

A slightly longer paper (about five pages), on an assigned topic, in which exposition will be combined with assessment and discussion.

### b. Late Penalties

*Midterm and Final paper*: 10 percentage points per day (weekends count as one day).

There are no exceptions to these deadlines unless there are good reasons for an extension.

### c. N Grades

If you complete the midterm paper, final paper, and Quote and Comment assignments, you will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete any one of these three requirements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

### **Academic Concessions**

UVic recognizes its responsibility to offer academic concessions to students whose ability to complete course requirements is interrupted by 1) unexpected and unavoidable circumstances or 2) conflicting responsibilities. In general, academic concessions take two forms:

1. during the term when all course requirements can be completed by the student before the instructor must submit the final grades (these are often informally called “extensions”); and
2. after the term has ended or when course requirements cannot be completed before final grades are submitted (including deferrals, extended deferrals, aegrotats, withdrawals under extenuating circumstances and backdated drops).

For additional details, please see the [regulations](#) and [guidelines](#) on academic concessions.

If you foresee or experience circumstances that prevent you from completing course requirements, please be proactive and contact me right away. The sooner you do, the easier it typically is to address the situation.

## Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Reading
1	Sep 7	Introduction
<i>Transcendental Idealism, Self-Consciousness, and Recognition</i>		
2	Sep 11, 14	Kant's legacy (no required reading) Fichte, First Introduction
3	Sep 18, 21	Fichte, First Introduction cont. Fichte, Foundations of Natural Right
4	Sep 25, 28	Fichte, Foundations of Natural Right cont'd.
<i>Transcendental Idealism Overcome I: Absolute Idealism, the Dialectical Method, and Recognition (again)</i>		
5	Oct 5, 12	Hegel, Encyclopedia, §§1-19 Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit, §§73-89
6	Oct 16, 19	Hegel, Encyclopedia (Part I: Science of Logic), §§213-222 Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit, §§166-177
<i>Transcendental Idealism Overcome II: The Metaphysics of Will, Pessimism, and the Ethics of Compassion</i>		
7	Oct 23, 26	Schopenhauer, The World as Will and Representation, Preface and §§1-2, 4-5, 7, 17-19, 21-22, 25
8	Oct 30, Nov 2	Schopenhauer, The World as Will and Representation, §§30-31, 34-36, 41, 51-55, 58-59, 68-69
<i>Idealism Rejected: Man as a Productive Animal, Historical Materialism, and Ideology</i>		
9	Nov 6, 9	Marx, Alienation (1844 Manuscripts) Marx, German Ideology pt. I
10	Nov 16, 29	Marx, German Ideology pt. I cont'd. Marx, Capital, chp. 1 (Commodity Fetishism) Zetkin, "For the Liberation of Women!" and "Women's Suffrage"
<i>Perspectivism and the Revaluing of Values</i>		
11	Nov 23, 27	Nietzsche on perspectivism Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality I

12	Nov 30, Dec 4	Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality II Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality III
	Exam period	<b>Final paper due Dec 18</b>

### Attendance and Notes

You are expected to attend class and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Slides and handouts I use for lecturing will be made available on the course website. However, I elaborate on these in class, so downloading the slides is no substitute for attending class.

The use of course materials (such as lecture slides or handouts) is for your own learning only. You are not permitted to distribute them to others or make them available on the internet (e.g. by posting them on social media). Doing so constitutes a violation of copyright.

It is crucial to your success in this course that you take good lecture notes. Research shows that taking good notes helps your learning. By taking your own notes (and this does *not* mean copying the lecture word for word) you process the material more thoroughly than you otherwise would and you make later reviewing easier for yourself. One good way of taking notes is to annotate slides or handouts.

If you miss class, please ask another student to share their notes with you and/or ask them what happened in class. Since the pandemic is not entirely over and there is a good chance that some of you will need to self-isolate at some point during the semester, I want to encourage everyone to be generous about sharing notes. Think of this as a contribution you can make to keeping everyone safe.

### Office Hours

I hold regular office hours. I encourage you to make use of these. No sign-up needed; just drop in. I especially encourage you to come to office hours if there is something you don't understand or if you are struggling in the course. The sooner you do, the better I will likely be able to help you. The default mode for office hours is in-person, but I would be happy to meet on Zoom. If you prefer Zoom, please email me, so I can set up a meeting.

### Announcements and Email

I will regularly communicate course-related information to you using the 'Announcements' function in *Brightspace*. Please ensure that you read these announcements. You can configure your *Brightspace* page so that you get notified (by email or text) when a new announcement is posted. Occasionally, I will also email you. Emails will be sent to the address listed in UVic's system as your contact information. It is your responsibility to make sure that this information is current and to check this email address at least once a day. If you contact me via email, I will make every effort to respond in a timely manner, which generally will be within 48 hours (longer on weekends). To make sure your email does not end up in my spam folder, I encourage you to put the course number in the subject line (i.e. PHIL 314) and use your UVic email address. If you have a question about assignments, due dates, or other course policies, the syllabus should be your first resource. *I will not respond to any emails that ask questions which are answered in the syllabus.* Your second resource should be the discussion board, which is accessible through the course website. You are encouraged to use this feature to discuss questions about course mechanics as well as course content.

### Student Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to providing a respectful and productive learning environment. All members of our community, including students, have both the right to experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. For details on the rights and responsibilities this involves please read through the [Trifaculty Code of Professional Behaviour for Students](#). This document also contains links to applicable university policies. It is part of your responsibility as a student in this course to know your responsibilities as outlined in the code of professional behaviour (which covers, among other things, attendance and classroom behavior, online conduct in university learning systems, and academic integrity).

### Intellectual property of materials on *D2L Brightspace*

Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the course's *Brightspace* site or distributed in class are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

### Academic Integrity (Plagiarism etc.)

Violations of academic integrity, such as plagiarism, cheating on exams etc., constitute breaches of university policy and carry serious penalties (e.g. failing the class, being put on disciplinary probation). Note that it is *your responsibility* to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, and that *ignorance of this is not an acceptable excuse*. For information, please consult [UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity](#) or contact me. If you are interested in learning more about academic integrity, you can also self-enrol in the [Integrity Matters](#) course in Brightspace. Search for this course under the [Discover](#) tab on your Brightspace homepage.

### Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you require academic accommodations you need to register with the Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal>). Please do so as early as possible. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning's website (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/programs/academic/index.php>).

### Significant Dates (<https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/dates/>)

- Tue, Sep 19: last day for 100% reduction of fees
- Fri, Sep 22: last day to for adding first-term courses
- Mon, Oct 2: University closed for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sep 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Tue, Oct 10: last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees. 100% of tuition fees will be assessed for courses dropped after this date.
- Tue, Oct 31: last day for withdrawing from first term courses without penalty of failure

### Grading Scheme

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definition
90-100	A+	9	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically <b>superior</b> , shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
85-89	A	8	
80-84	A-	7	
77-79	B+	6	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a <b>good</b> comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
73-76	B	5	
70-72	B-	4	
65-69	C+	3	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an <b>adequate</b> comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities
60-64	C	2	
50-59	D	1	A D is earned by work that indicates <b>minimal</b> command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

0-49	F	0	F is earned by work which, after the completion of course requirements, is <b>inadequate</b> and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.
0-49	N	0	N is earned if a student has <b>failed to complete</b> one or more <b>required components</b> of a course. N is a failing grade, but, unlike an F, makes the student eligible for Academic Concessions (so that outstanding requirements may be completed later). However, being eligible for Academic Concessions does not guarantee that these will be granted.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is at the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. If you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent edition of the UVic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

### **Counselling Services**

Your mental health is as important as your physical health. During the semester, you might feel overwhelmed, lonely, or stressed about your academic performance. You might experience a personal or family tragedy. The University provides free counselling services, and I encourage you to make use of these in this type of situation. (See [www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/) for more information).

### **Course Experience Surveys (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.