

Seminar: The Practical Philosophies of Kant and Hegel

Intended for advanced undergraduates, this class is a semester-long seminar that meets twice a week. It introduces the moral and political philosophies of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) and G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831). Both philosophers produced groundbreaking and extremely influential interpretations of freedom, morality, history, and modernity. Moreover, Hegel read Kant's work, critiqued it, and offered his own solutions to problems posed by Kant. The course will cover the major themes and shared questions of Kant and Hegel through close readings and discussions of primary sources. Occasionally, we will consult recent scholarship as well.

Course Requirements

Starting with the second week, each week of the course will have a discussion question associated with it. Students must write *one* 4-5 page paper on a Kant discussion question and *one* 4-5 page paper on a Hegel discussion question. Papers are due at the end of the second class every week. There is also a 10-page final paper that will be expected to incorporate the writings of both thinkers. A list of final paper topics will be handed out ahead of time.

Texts

Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge)

Kant, *Political Writings* (Cambridge)

Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History* (Hackett)

Course reader, containing selections from Hegel's *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* (PR), Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (PhG), and secondary sources on Kant and Hegel

Readings

Please complete the readings before the class for which they are assigned.

Part I: KantWeek 1: Kantian Moral Theory

First Meeting: Introduction to the Course

Second Meeting: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface and Section I; Christine Korsgaard, "Kant's analysis of obligation: the argument of *Groundwork I*"

Week 2: Kantian Moral Theory, cont.

First Meeting: *Groundwork II*, 19-27

Second Meeting: *Groundwork II*, 27-34

Week 3: Kantian Moral Theory, cont.

First Meeting: *Groundwork II*, 34-44

Second Meeting: Groundwork II, 44-51

Week 4: Kantian Moral Theory, cont.

First Meeting: Groundwork III, 52-59

Second Meeting: Groundwork III, 59-66

Week 5: Kantian Moral Theory; Kantian Political Theory

First Meeting: Christine Korsgaard, "Morality as Freedom"

Second Meeting: Metaphysics of Morals (Political Writings, pp. 132-164)

Week 6: Kantian Political Theory, cont.

*First Meeting: "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose";
Metaphysics of Morals (Political Writings, pp. 164-175)*

Second Meeting: "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"

Week 7: Kantian Political Theory, cont.

First Meeting: "What is Enlightenment?"

Second Meeting: Michel Foucault, "What is Enlightenment?"

Part II: Hegel

Week 8: The Master-Slave Dialectic and Hegel's Critique of Stoicism and Skepticism

*First Meeting: PhG §§166-196; Allen W. Wood, Hegel's Ethical Thought,
chapter 4*

Second Meeting: PhG §§197-230

Week 9: Abstract Morality and Concrete Ethical Life

First Meeting: PR §§132-137; Charles Taylor, Hegel, chapter 14

*Second Meeting: PR §§141, 142-157; Alan Patten, Hegel's Idea of Freedom,
chapter 3*

Week 10: Ethical Life

First Meeting: PR §§158-169, PR §§182-188 (Family and Civil Society)

*Second Meeting: PR §§257-259 (The Political State); Alan Patten, Hegel's Idea of
Freedom, chapter 6*

Week 11: Hegel's Philosophy of History

First Meeting: Introduction to the Philosophy of History, chapters 1-2

*Second Meeting: Introduction to the Philosophy of History, chapter 3; Allen W.
Wood, Hegel's Ethical Thought, chapter 13*

Week 12: Hegel's Philosophy of History, cont.

First Meeting: Introduction to the Philosophy of History, chapters 4-5

Second Meeting: Charles Taylor, Hegel, chapter 15

Week 13: Hegel's Treatment of War and Peace

First Meeting: PR, §§321-340

Second Meeting: Conclusion of the Course