PHIL4242
German Idealism 德意志觀念論

Course Outline

Time: T 2:30pm-5:15pm	**Location: LSK 201**
Instructor: Gregory S. Moss	
Office: 426 Fung King Hey	

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course deals with the German philosophical development after Kant. Topics include: Fichte's science of knowledge, Schelling's philosophy of nature, Jacobi's critique of idealism, early German romanticism, and Hegel's logic and phenomenology of spirit. The course will trace the philosophical development of key epistemic, metaphysical, and logical problems within the tradition of German Idealism.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary and secondary source texts on the tradition.

2. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories developed by Kant, Fichte, Jacobi, The Eary German Romantics, Schelling, and Hegel.

3. Be familiar with some central philosophical problems within the tradition of German Idealism and the various solutions to those problems offered by the tradition.

4. Develop competence in expositing the philosophical trajectory of German Idealism from Kant to Hegel.

5. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own concerning the issues discussed in the course.

6. Demonstrate progress in their papers toward mastering the expository and critical skills for argumentative writing.

Topics

Transcendental Idealism

Subjective and Objective Idealism

Absolute Idealism

The Problem of Foundations and First Principles

Metaphysics and Epistemology

Philosophy of Logic

Negative and Positive Philosophy

Learning activities

Students are expected to attend every seminar and participate in class discussions. Students are also expected to read before each meeting (20-30 pages maximum per week).

Assessment scheme (as shown on CUSIS)

Task nature	*Description*	*Weight*
Participation		10%
Argument Reconstruction		10%
Argument Critique		30%
Seminar Paper		50%

Backup plan for assessment in case face-to-face teaching and assessment is not possible due to the pandemic

Same as Above

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

1. **Argument Reconstructions:**

I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage. Reconstructing the argument will require you to carefully explicate the premises, (both implicit and explicit) and the conclusion of the argument. To succeed on this assignment, students must re-phrase the arguments *in their own words*. No quotations of the passage will be allowed. There is *no length requirement* for this assignment.

2. **Argument Critiques:**

The Argument Critiques consist of three parts. In respect to the critique, I shall provide you with passages from the texts which we are reading, and I will ask you to choose one passage to work on. You will re-construct the argument contained in that passage and formulate a critique of that passage. The last stage consists in formulating a reply to the criticism that you raise. I encourage you to utilize the texts that we are reading in formulating the criticisms; you are encouraged to employ the philosophers against each other. Argument Critiques (New Times Roman, 12-point font) should probably range from **3 to 6 double spaced pages in length.**

3. **Seminar Paper:**

The seminar paper will require students to uncover a philosopher problem in one of the texts that we have read together and clearly explicate that problem. Following the explication of the problem, students should work through various solutions to the problem and clearly formulate their own thesis concerning that problem. Students are welcome to use their Argument Critiques or Seminar Presentations as possible foundations for their Seminar Paper. The term paper requires students to consult and cite at least one work of secondary literature in addition to the required readings. The term paper should be **at least 8 pages** but ***not* be more than 20 double spaced pages** (New Times Roman, 12-point font).

4. **Participation:**

Attendance is mandatory and *absence will damage your grades*. Two unexcused absences are permitted. For each unexcused absence beyond two, one-half a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. In case of emergencies, either notify me of your absence ahead of time, or plan to bring some formal documentation of your absence. Without documentation, I will not accept absences as excused.

5. **Late Work/Make-Ups:**

Every day the paper is late, one half a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for the assignment. If you would like a grade changed, you must provide me with a detailed written argument for why you think it should be changed, otherwise I will not consider it.

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Recommended learning resources

See Blackboard for all readings and recommended secondary literature.

Course schedule

Week	*Topic*	*Requirements*
1	Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/87)	
2	Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/87)	
3	Fichte, *Science of Knowledge* (1794/97)	
4	Fichte, *Science of Knowledge* (1794); Schelling, *Philosophical Letters* (1795)	
5	Schelling, *System of Transcendental Idealism (1800)*; Schelling, *First Outline of a System of a Philosophy of Nature* (1797) Schelling, *Presentation of My System of Philosophy* (1801)	**Argument Reconstruction Due**
6	Schlegel, *Talk on Myth* (1800) Early German Romanticism	
7	Jacobi, Philosophical Letters, *David Hume on Faith*	
8	Hegel, *The Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807); *The Science of Logic* (1812-1832)	
9	Hegel, *The Science of Logic*	**Argument Critique Due**
10	Hegel, *The Science of Logic*	
11	Hegel, *The Science of Logic*	
12	Schelling, *Erlangen Lectures* (1820)	
13	Schelling, *The Grounding of Positive Philosophy* (1842)	
13	Schelling, *The Grounding of Positive Philosophy* (1842)	**Seminar Paper Due**

Details of course website

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and papers will be posted on the website. **Contact teacher for details.**

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Moss, Gregory S.
Office location:	Room 436, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 9875
Email:	gsmoss@cuhk.edu.hk

Tutor	
Name:	TBD
Office location:	TBD
Telephone:	TBD
Email:	TBD

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.