

**Phil 414: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy**  
**Fall 2010**  
**11:10-12:25; ENPH 216**  
**Dr. Kristi Sweet**

Office: Bolton Hall 209E

Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-10:30, 1:00-2:15; and by appointment

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**Required Texts:**

All texts are available at the campus bookstore; there is also a course packet that must be purchased from Notes-n-Quotes, on University Avenue.

Immanuel Kant, *On History*

G.W.F. Hegel, *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo*

**Course Description:**

The late modern epoch (from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century) was one of the most fruitful and exciting in the history of philosophy. One could even argue that many of the philosophical problems and frameworks introduced and explored in this epoch still dominate much of our philosophical discourse today. The main themes of the class will be those of freedom, nature, and history. We will seek answer such questions as: What does it mean to be free? Are human beings making moral progress? What is the role of nature in human freedom and history? This course will introduce students to some of the most influential and enduring thinkers of the late modern period in the European tradition through reading Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche. While we will seek to understand each thinker on his own terms, we will also explore the ways in which they were influenced by and reacted to one another.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of the semester, students should have a good grasp of some of the key concepts of the late modern epoch in European philosophy. It is also my aim that students, through this class and the practice of reading texts closely, will become better readers. We will analyze texts and their specific arguments very closely, while balancing that reading with the overall spirit and intent of the text. This course will also seek to instruct students in the discipline of philosophical writing. Students should come away from the course with a good understanding of how to write a philosophy paper with a clear and developed thesis, and that is well-organized.

**Course Requirements:**

You will be assigned two papers over the course of the semester. The first paper will be 5-6 pages long, and will be focused on one thinker. The second paper will be your final paper for the class and will be 10-12 pages. Class time will be a mixture of lecture and open discussion. I expect everyone to come to class having read the assignments and prepared to participate fully in our discussions. As this is a W Course, *students are required to attend class when writing*

*instruction is given, and must participate in the two in-class peer review exercises. Your paper grade will be lowered by one letter grade if you fail to participate in either of these aspects of the course.*

**Grading:**

Midterm paper (5-6 pages)	25%
Final Paper (10-12 pages)	50%
Final Exam	25%

**Attendance/Absence Policy:**

Students are expected to come to each class, as the difficulty of the texts requires class attendance for understanding. If you do not come to class, you should not expect to do well in the course. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed, and to contact me regarding your absence. You can do this by setting up an appointment with me.

**Appointments and Correspondence:**

It is my goal to help you succeed in your academic endeavors, and I am therefore more than willing to meet with you outside of scheduled office hours to accommodate your schedule. To set up an appointment, you may see me before or after class, stop by my office, call, or email. If you choose to email me (for any reason), I will expect that your email be professional and courteous in tone and structure, and I will do the same.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall or call 845-1637.

**Academic Integrity Statements: Aggie Honor Code**

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

Plagiarism and/or cheating in this class will not be accepted, and will result in failure of the course. This includes plagiarism that is unintentional or results from ignorance regarding proper citation practices. If you are unsure about what constitutes acceptable citation practices, please consult with the writing center or library resources on writing styles.

## Course Assignments

These assignments are subject to change as the semester progresses. I will make announcements in class regarding any changes, and changes will be reflected on the syllabus posted online.

Date	Assignment	Pages
8/30	Introduction to course	
9/2	Readings on Theodicy	<i>Course packet</i>
9/7	Kant: "Idea for Universal History"	<i>On History</i> 11-26
9/9	Kant: "Perpetual Peace"	<i>On History</i> 93-114
9/14	Kant: "An Old Question Raised Again"	<i>On History</i> 137-154
9/16	Kleist: "The Earthquake in Chile"	<i>Course packet</i>
9/21-23	Hegel: <i>Introduction to the Philosophy of History</i>	3-56
9/28	<i>Hand out paper topics; Instruction on writing in philosophy</i>	
9/30-10/5	Hegel: <i>Lectures on the Philosophy of World History</i>	57-106
10/7	<i>In-class peer review of mid-term paper</i>	
10/12	Hegel: <i>Lectures on the Philosophy of World History</i>	57-106
10/14	Emerson: "Nature" Mid-term paper due	<i>Course Packet</i>
10/19	Emerson: "History"	<i>Course Packet</i>
10/21-26	Marx: "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844"	<i>Marx-Engels Reader</i> 66-92
10/28	Marx: "Theses on Feuerbach" "The German Ideology"	<i>Marx-Engels</i> 143-5; 146- 175, 193-201
11/2	Marx: "Manifesto of the Communist Party"	<i>Marx-Engels</i> 469-500
11/4	Nietzsche: "On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life"	<i>Untimely Meditations</i> 57-100
11/9-11	Nietzsche: "Uses and Disadvantages"	<i>Meditations</i> 100-123
11/16-18	Nietzsche: "'Good and Evil' 'Good and Bad'"	<i>Genealogy</i> 24-56
11/23	Nietzsche: "What is the meaning of ascetic ideals?"	<i>Genealogy</i> 57-124
11/25	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	
11/30	Nietzsche: "What is the meaning of ascetic ideals?"	<i>Genealogy</i> 57-124
12/2	<i>In-class peer review for final paper</i>	
12/7	Final Paper Due and Review for Final Exam	
12/10	Final Exam at 3:00pm	