I. Course Description

The high period of German Idealism -- from 1781, the year of the publication of Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*, to the death of Hegel in 1831 -- was one of the great revolutionary epochs in the history of philosophy. We shall study the thought of the period using the central notions of history and freedom as our guide. As we shall see, many of our modern conceptions of the self and society were shaped by ideas regarding history and human agency that emerged at that time. We conclude the course by looking at how Marx's critique of capitalism and his vision of communism emerged from the reworking of the ideas of history and freedom that he inherited from the Idealist tradition.

II. Course Requirements and Policies

Composition of Final Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Paper (6-9 pages)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Paper (8-12 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Final Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements for Undergraduates

The readings in this course will both require and reward your patience. You should plan to devote time each week to careful study, and you are asked to prepare regularly for your thoughtful participation in section.

In addition, you are asked to write a shorter paper of 6-9 pages, due at the beginning of lecture on Wednesday, October 19th, and a longer paper of 8-12 pages, due at the beginning of our last meeting on Wednesday, November 30th. Paper topics consisting of a choice of questions will be distributed in advance. You may design your own topic for the longer paper, provided that you discuss your topic in advance with one of the teaching staff.

The final assignment will be distributed during Reading Period, and will be due electronically forty-eight hours thereafter. The assignment will consist of a list of questions covering material discussed in lectures and sections. You will be asked to choose two questions and to respond in short essay form.

Requirements for Graduate Students

Course requirements for graduate students will be agreed upon during the first graduate section.
# III. Timetable

[Readings are assigned by lecture; consult the list below to see what will be covered in section.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Lecture 1: Introductory Lecture.</th>
<th>Wed, Aug 31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Lecture 2: Rousseau. – State, Self, Freedom, God.</td>
<td>Wed, Sep 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 3: Turgot and Smith. – Harmony, Progress, History.</td>
<td>Mon, Sep 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Lecture 4: Kant. – Kant’s Copernican Revolution.</td>
<td>Wed, Sep 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 5: Kant. – The Categorical Imperative.</td>
<td>Mon, Sep 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Lecture 6: Kant. – The Problem of Freedom.</td>
<td>Wed, Sep 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 7: Kant. – Politics, History, Evil.</td>
<td>Mon, Sep 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Lecture 8: Herder and Hamann. – Language.</td>
<td>Wed, Sep 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 9: Herder. – History.</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Lecture 10: Schiller.– The State and Freedom.</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Lecture 12: Fichte. – Freedom, Morality, and the State.</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 13: Schelling. – History and Freedom</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Lecture 14: The Oldest System-Program.</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 15: Art and Freedom I.</td>
<td>Wed, Oct 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Lecture 16: Art and Freedom II.</td>
<td>Mon, Oct 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 17: Nature and Naturphilosophy</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Lecture 18: Hegel. –Philosophy.</td>
<td>Mon, Nov 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Lecture 20: Hegel. – The State.</td>
<td>Mon, Nov 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lecture 21: Hegel. – History.</td>
<td>Wed, Nov 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Course Readings

Location of Course Readings

All of the required and suggested readings for the course will be made available electronically on the course website.

In addition, copies of the following works have been requested at the Harvard Coop:


Finally, many of the required and suggested readings for the course will be made available on reserve at Lamont. Students are advised to check the course website for a complete list of readings on reserve.

Secondary Sources

For those who wish to consult secondary sources, a list of recommended works can be found on the course website, and the relevant books will be put on reserve.

V. Schedule of Readings

1. Introductory Lecture. (Wed, Aug 31)
   
   Required: None.
   
2. Rousseau. – State, Self, Freedom, God. (Wed, Sep 7)
Required: Discourse on Political Economy
The Social Contract (excerpts), ibid., chap. 12.

Recommended: Discourse on the Arts and Sciences (excerpts), ibid., chap. 4.
Emile (excerpts), ibid., chs. 13, 14.
Confessions (excerpts), ibid., chap. 20.

3. Turgot, Smith. – Harmony, Progress, History. (Mon, Sep 12)

4. Kant. – Kant’s Copernican Revolution. (Wed, Sep 14)
“Preface to the First Edition”;
“Preface to the Second Edition”;
“Introduction”;

5. Kant. – The Categorical Imperative. (Mon, Sep 19)

Recommended: Editor’s introduction by Christine Korsgaard.

Kant, Groundwork, Section III, pp. 52-66.

7. Kant. – Politics, History, Evil. (Mon, Sep 26)
Kant, “On the Common Saying: ‘This May be True in Theory, But It Does Not Apply in Practice’”, Part II (“On the Relationship of Theory to Practice in Political Right”), in ibid, pp. 73-86.
8. Herder and Hamann. – Language. (Wed, Sep 28)

9. Herder. – History. (Mon, Oct 3)

10. Schiller. – The State and Freedom. (Wed, Oct 5)


12. Fichte. – Freedom, Morality, and the State. (Mon, Oct 17)


14. The Oldest System-Programme. (Mon, Oct 24)

16. Art and Freedom II. (Mon, Oct 31)

17. Nature and Naturphilosophie. (Wed, Nov 2)

18. Hegel – Philosophy. (Mon, Nov 7)


20. Hegel – The State. (Mon, Nov 14)


22. Karl Marx – The Early Writings (Mon, Nov 21)
   Required: Marx, "Introduction to a Critique of the Philosophy of Right";
   "On the Jewish Question";
   *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* [Selections];
   *The German Ideology* [Part I];
   *Theses on Feurbach*. 
23. Karl Marx- The Critique of Capitalism. (Wed, Nov 30)- **Second Paper Due**

Required: Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Program*;
*The Communist Manifesto*;
"Preface to the Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy";
Grundrisse ['Introduction' and 'Chapter on Capital']
Das Kapital [Preface; Part I, Sec. 1, Ch. 4; Part II, chs. 4-6;
Part III, ch. 7, Sec. I and ch. 8, Sec. I; Part IV, chs. 14-15