PHIL 233 – Hegel
Syllabus, Spring Term 2008, Section 1001

MW 2:25-3:40, Johnston Hall, R. 513

An online version of this syllabus can be found at http://academic.mu.edu/phil/lufts/Teaching1.htm.

Content & Objectives:
This course offers a general advanced introduction to Hegel’s philosophy on the graduate level with a focus on Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit. We will approach Hegel’s thought from a developmental perspective, i.e., starting from the background and context, namely Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason and some texts from the early phase of German Idealism (Fichte), and then move into a study of Hegel’s early Differenzschrift, where his own thought takes on shape, and then study parts of the Encyclopedia (the “Lesser Logic”) and, finally, the most important passages of the Phenomenology. The course objectives will be an understanding of Hegel’s system as a whole and the place of the Phenomenology within it; Hegel’s method of dialectical thinking and the way it is applied to different ideas; the major theoretical accomplishments of the Phenomenology itself; and a basic knowledge of classical and contemporary Hegel research. The outcomes should be (a) a solid grasp of Hegel’s philosophy in a way that you will know where to start off on your own work on Hegel, should you be so inclined, and (b) to pass the Hegel part of the comps.

The course will also attempt to hone graduate students’ exegetical and interpretative skills through a close and careful reading of the texts, as well as develop and further the capacity to formulate students’ own questions and to challenge a philosopher’s claims, presuppositions, and approaches to timeless philosophical questions. At the end of the semester, students will be able to articulate, appreciate and critically evaluate the achievements of Hegel’s philosophy.

Texts:
I. Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (Guyer/Wood trans., Cambridge U Press), Selections (on reserve).
J. G. Fichte, Introductions to the Wissenschaftslehre (Brezeale trans., Hackett), Selections (on reserve).
G. W. F. Hegel, The Logic (The “Lesser Logic”) of the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences (Wallace trans., Oxford), Selections (on reserve).

Helpful & Recommended Secondary Sources:
Here is a list of helpful introductory reading from the abundance of Hegel literature:


For an intellectual biography, take a look at:

For an historico-philosophical background, see:

And a general overview is provided by:
*The Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, F. Beiser ed., Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, 1993; and:

All of these books have extensive bibliographies, some annotated.

The single most influential book on Hegel in English is:

Despite its difficulty, nevertheless a classic of Hegel scholarship:

For an interesting account of the problem of German Idealism in general, take a look at:

You should be aware that a significant chunk of literature on Hegel in general and the *Phenomenology* in particular is German. Here are some of the big names to look out for (some of their writings are translated): O. Pöggeler, D. Henrich, W. Jaeschke, H. F. Fulda, R. Wiehl, L. Siep, R.-P. Horstmann, K. Düsing, H.-G. Gadamer, R. Bubner, M. Theunissen.

**Method of Evaluation:**
The final grade will be calculated as follows: Midterm Exam (take home) 30 %; Outline of Research Paper (due April 21) 15 %; Research Paper 50 %; Oral participation 5 %, this includes protocol: At the beginning of each class, a student who has been designated in the previous class will summarize the last class meeting, 5-10 minutes max. (to begin on Jan. 23). A written version of that protocol is to be posted on D2L.
The Midterm Exam will consist of an exam with essay questions in take-home format (handed out on March 12, due on March 26). The questions will be close to the readings and will require a close study of the texts. Quotations from primary and secondary sources are expected to be incorporated into the essays.
The Research Paper is due on May 7 and is expected to have a length of 15-20 pages (double-space) and is to incorporate at least five secondary sources (books or articles). The idea is to prepare and work on this paper over the course of the semester. This entails that each student is required to come up with a research topic on his/her own and should discuss this with me at different points during the semester. The due date for an outline (this includes the anticipated title of the paper, an abstract of ca. half a page, a detailed outline of the argument plus bibliography) is April 21. At that time, you should have a clear idea of what you want to work on, have done research on it, and have it ready for approval. It is possible for the paper focus to change slightly for the final version, but the general direction should be clear. I expect you to be in touch with me at several occasions throughout the semester (during my office hours or via email) to discuss ideas that you are entertaining and problems that you are wrestling with.

D2L: I intend to make use of D2L extensively (e.g., I will post my lecture notes) and expect you to check it regularly and contribute to it with postings of your own. The discussion forum is intended to further the classroom discussion. I intend the class to be primarily lecture-format, though I do encourage discussion and expect participants to come prepared and ready to participate when called upon. I do not have an attendance policy. If you are not well prepared, do not bother showing up. Please try to be punctual.
Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

January 14: Introduction, Technicalia. Ways to read Hegel and interpret his work. Hegel’s System: an Overview.

Jan. 16: Hegel’s Method and the Phenomenology of Spirit.
Suggested Reading: M. Forster, “Hegel’s Dialectical Method” (Cambridge Companion to Hegel, on reserve).

Jan. 21: MLK Day

Jan. 23: Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, Transcendental Deduction (the “A” Deduction, on reserve).
Suggested Reading: P. Guyer, “Absolute Idealism and the Rejection of Kantian Dualism” (Cambridge Companion to German Idealism, on reserve).

Jan. 28: Fichte, First Introduction to the Wissenschaftslehre (on reserve).
Suggested Reading: D. Brezeale, “Editor’s Introduction” (on reserve); R.-P. Horstmann, “The Early Philosophy of Fichte and Schelling” (Cambridge Companion to German Idealism, on reserve).


February 4: Difference cont., Exposition of Fichte’s System.
Feb. 6: Difference cont., Comparison of Schelling’s Principle of Philosophy With Fichte.

Feb. 11: Hegel, Encyclopedia Logic, First and Second Attitudes of Thought to Objectivity (§§ 26-60, on reserve).
Feb. 13: Hegel, Encyclopedia Logic cont., Third Attitude of Thought to Objectivity (§§ 61-78, on reserve).

Feb. 18: Phenomenology of Spirit, Introduction (pp. 46-57).
Suggested Reading: R. B. Pippin, “You Can’t There From Here: Transition Problems in Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit” (Cambridge Companion to Hegel, on reserve).
Feb. 20: Phenomenology of Spirit, Sense-Certainty (pp. 58-66).

Feb. 25: Phenomenology of Spirit, Perception (pp. 67-79).
Feb. 27: Phenomenology of Spirit, Force and Understanding (pp. 79-103).

March 3: Phenomenology of Spirit, Truth of Self-Certainty (pp. 104-111).

March 5: Phenomenology of Spirit, Lordship and Bondage (pp. 111-119).
Suggested Reading: G. A. Kelly, “Notes on Hegel’s ‘Lordship and Bondage’” (on reserve).

March 10: Phenomenology of Spirit, Freedom of Self-Consciousness (pp. 119-138).

Midterm Exam

March 13-24: Spring Break
March 26: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Observing Reason: Physiognomy and Phrenology (pp. 185-210).

**Midterm Exam Due**

March 31: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Actualization of Self-Consciousness (pp. 211-235).
April 2: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Individuality In and For Itself (pp. 236-262).

April 7: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Spirit: The Ethical Order (pp. 263-294).
April 9: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Self-Alienated Spirit: Culture (pp. 294-321).

April 14: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Faith and Pure Insight (pp. 321-328).
April 16: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, The Enlightenment & Absolute Freedom and Terror (pp. 328-363).

April 21: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Morality (pp. 364-409).

**Outline Due**

April 23: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Absolute Knowing (pp. 479-493).

April 28: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Preface (§§ 1-25).
April 30: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Preface (§§ 26-50).

May 7: **Research Paper Due**