PHILOSOPHY 3333: Nineteenth-Century Philosophy
Course Syllabus

Midwestern State University, Fall 2012
TR 9:30 a.m.- 10:50 a.m., McCoy 131
Instructor: Dr. Nathan Jun
Office: Bea Wood Hall, Room 221
Office Hours: MWF 8:30 a.m.- 9:50 a.m.; 12 p.m.- 1 p.m.;
TR 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. & by appointment
E-mail: nathan.jun@mwsu.edu / Phone: 940-397-4128
http://faculty.mwsu.edu/philosophy/nathan.jun

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course provides a historical and theoretical introduction to major thinkers and movements in nineteenth-century European philosophy. The first part will focus on the German Idealists Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1813) and G.W.F. Hegel (1770-1831). The second part will focus on the early existentialists Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) and Friederich Nietzsche (1844-1900). The third and last part will focus on the German socialist Karl Marx (1818-1883). Particular topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to the nature of reality, the existence of God, the structure of knowledge, and the meaning of human life.

The main objectives of the course are as follows:

1. To help students learn and understand the major thinkers and movements of nineteenth-century European philosophy from both a historical and theoretical perspective.
2. To help students gain familiarity with various pivotal texts in nineteenth-century European philosophy.
3. To help students develop their skills in interpreting and critically analyzing texts.
4. To help students develop their skills in identifying and evaluating arguments as well as in formulating arguments of their own.
5. To help students improve their ability to read and write clearly and critically.
6. To inculcate students with a love of wisdom and a desire to live a philosophical life.

REQUIRED TEXTS: (Available at the MWSU Bookstore – Phone: 940-397-4225)


COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

In order to accomplish the course goals, you must arrive prepared for each class. This means coming to class on time as well as completing assignments and readings. It is expected that you will read the assigned texts carefully and critically, take notes, jot down questions, and bring all required materials to class each day. Active and informed participation in class discussions is crucial. For more information, please see the addendum on class participation and attendance.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is welcomed, expected, and mandatory. You must come to class on time.
You are considered absent if:

- you don’t show up for class
- you show up more than 15 minutes late for class without an appropriate excuse
- you are consistently unprepared for class, fail to pay attention during class, and/or fail to participate in class discussion

You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. For every unexcused absence after the first two, I will lower your final grade by five percent. After three absences you must attend a conference with me to discuss whether you should continue in this course. Five absences constitute automatic failure of the course.

In extreme cases, absences will be excused according to my judgment; I should be informed beforehand of any anticipated absence. Most excuses will require official documentation, such as a doctor’s note.

For more information, please see the addendum on class participation and attendance.

ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be required to complete the following assignments:

- One take-home midterm examination: 100 points
- One take-home final examination: 100 points
- Class participations and attendance: 50 points

GRADING SCALE:

Your points will be translated into percentages, and your final grade will be calculated according to the following percentage scale:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59% or below = F

Although such instances are rare, I reserve the right to reward students who have shown dramatic progress with higher grades than the scale suggests.

Note about Incompletes: A grade of “Incomplete” may be given to a student who has not been able to complete specific required coursework due to circumstances beyond his/her control before the end of a given reporting period. In order to remove the ‘I’ from his/her record, the student will meet with the instructor to discuss his/her completion of coursework or the taking of a final exam. In turn, the instructor will issue a new grade two weeks before the closing of the following reporting period. A student’s failure to comply with the instructor’s requirements prior to this deadline will result in an automatic F grade. Students are encouraged to meet the requirements set by their instructors in order to remove ‘I’ grades from their reports.

GRADING POLICY:
Major written assignments in this course will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

**Exposition** – Does the paper correctly and clearly answer the question(s) posed in the thesis statement?

**Organization** – Is the paper well organized? Does it build upon the main idea/thesis statement? Does it evince a logical argumentative structure?

**Coherence** – Do the main ideas and arguments of the paper relate to one another logically? Does the paper adequately explain main ideas and concepts? Does the paper avoid “going off on tangents” or including otherwise irrelevant information?

**Argumentation** – Does the paper provide adequate support, evidence, justification, etc. for its claims?

**Creativity** – Does the paper approach philosophical problems in a creative fashion?

**Clarity** – Does the paper use a clear and consistent writing style? Does it avoid significant grammatical and mechanical errors?

A paper that meets some but not all of these criteria is a satisfactory (‘C’) paper. A paper that meets all of these criteria is a good (‘B’) paper. A paper that meets and exceeds these criteria is an excellent (‘A’) paper. (See below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria:</th>
<th>Possible Grades:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition</strong></td>
<td>The paper answers the question(s) posed in the thesis statement correctly with superior efficiency and clarity. The paper answers the question(s) posed in the thesis statement correctly and with adequate efficiency and clarity. The paper incorrectly answers the question(s) posed in the thesis statement, or answers the question(s) correctly but not in a clear or effective way. The paper fails to answer the question(s) posed in the thesis statement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>The paper exhibits a maximally clear and logical structure. The paper exhibits an adequately clear and logical structure. The paper exhibits fair organization with room for improvement. The paper is extremely unorganized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence</strong></td>
<td>The paper is maximally coherent. The paper is adequately coherent The paper is fairly coherent with some extraneous or irrelevant information. The paper is mostly incoherent with a high amount of extraneous or irrelevant information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Argumentation</strong></td>
<td>The paper exhibits superior critical analysis, argumentative The paper exhibits good critical analysis, The paper offers some degree of justification for its The paper offers little justification for its major</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creativity</th>
<th>Argumentative rigor, and logical acumen</th>
<th>Major claims, but the justification is weak or unsubstantiated</th>
<th>Claims.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The paper consistently approaches philosophical problems in creative, clever, novel, etc. ways.</td>
<td>The paper occasionally approaches philosophical problems in creative, clever, novel, etc. ways.</td>
<td>The paper approaches philosophical problems in predictable ways.</td>
<td>It’s not entirely clear how (or if) the paper approaches philosophical problems.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Clarity</th>
<th>Creativity</th>
<th>Argumentative rigor, and logical acumen</th>
<th>Major claims, but the justification is weak or unsubstantiated</th>
<th>Claims.</th>
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<tr>
<td>The paper is extremely well-written and contains no major spelling or grammatical errors</td>
<td>The paper is fairly well-written with some spelling and grammatical errors.</td>
<td>The paper is poorly written and contains several spelling and grammatical errors.</td>
<td>The paper is virtually unreadable.</td>
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**WRITING DEADLINES & SUBMISSIONS:**

You are expected to submit assignments by the deadlines listed. All written work is due at the beginning of class unless otherwise noted. In order to be considered for a grade, all assignments are to be complete, of the minimum word count, and must conform to MLA documentation and format (word-processed, 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spacing, with one inch margins). No papers will be accepted if they are handwritten. If an assignment does not meet the above requirements when it is submitted, it will receive zero points and may not be revised. Late assignments will only be accepted with the specific, prior agreement of the instructor, and then only in extreme cases. There is no grace period. No exceptions.

All papers should include page numbers (upper right hand corner: Surname Page Number). For all written assignments, please include the following in the upper left hand corner of the first page:

Your Name  
PHIL 3333  
Date  
Professor Jun

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT:**

*Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from the course. Cases will also be referred to the Dean of Students for possible dismissal from the university.*

This course observes the MSU Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty, however small, creates a breach in academic integrity. A student’s participation in this course comes with the expectation that his or her work will be completed in full observance of the MSU Code of Student Conduct. A student should consult the Student Handbook or the Office of the Dean of Students for answers to any questions about the code.
**Student Honor Creed:** “As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else to do so.”

**Cheating** includes, but is not limited to, (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers or completing other assignments; or (3) the acquisition of tests or other academic materials belonging to the university faculty or staff without permission.

**Plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to, using the published or unpublished works of another person without recognition, either by paraphrase or direct quotation. The use of materials generated by agencies engaged in “selling” term papers is also plagiarism.

**WIKIPEDIA & OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCES**

Even if correctly cited, Wikipedia or other outside sources should not be used on the midterm or final examination in this course. Use of outside sources without the explicit permission of the instructor will result in a zero for the assignment.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:**

Insults, slurs, or attacks of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Any student who engages in this type of behavior in the classroom will be permanently removed from the class, in addition to other possible punishment by Midwestern State University.

**LAPTOP COMPUTER, CELL PHONE, AND MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY:**

Owing to persistent abuse, **LAPTOP COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES, IPODS, ETC. ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THIS CLASS.** If you require the use of a laptop pursuant to a special need, please contact the instructor. Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be turned off and put away before class begins.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable adjustments in its policies, practices, services, and facilities to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational programs and activities.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides information and assistance, arranges accommodations, and serves as a liaison for students, instructors, and staff. The ODS has assistive devices such as books on tape, recorders, and adaptive software which can be loaned to qualified individuals. A student/employee who seeks accommodations on the basis of disability must register with the Office of Disability Services in the Counseling Center. Documentation of disability from a competent professional is required.

Students who qualify must contact the instructor as soon as possible to request accommodations.
## COURSE SCHEDULE:

### WEEK ONE
- **Tuesday 28 August**: Introduction
- **Thursday 30 August**: Introduction: The Enlightenment and After

### WEEK TWO
- **Tuesday 4 September**: Introduction to Fichte (pp. 21-24); *On the Foundation of Our Belief in a Divine Government of the Universe* (pp. 25-30)
- **Thursday 6 September**: *On the Foundation of Our Belief in a Divine Government of the Universe* (cont’d)

### WEEK THREE
- **Tuesday 11 September**: Fichte, *The Vocation of Man* (pp. 30-38)
- **Thursday 13 September**: *The Vocation of Man* (cont’d)

### WEEK FOUR
- **Tuesday 18 September**: Introduction to Hegel (pp. 39-43); *Phenomenology of Spirit* (pp. 43-48)
- **Thursday 20 September**: *Phenomenology of Spirit* (cont’d)

### WEEK FIVE
- **Tuesday 25 September**: Hegel, *Reason in History* (pp. 61-75)
- **Thursday 27 September**: *Reason in History* (pp. 76-92)

### WEEK SIX
- **Tuesday 2 October**: Hegel, *Lectures on the History of Philosophy* (pp. 92-96); **MIDTERM EXAMS DISTRIBUTED**
- **Thursday 4 October**: *Lectures on the History of Philosophy* (cont’d)

### WEEK SEVEN
- **Tuesday 9 October**: Introduction to Kierkegaard (pp. 263-267); *Fear and Trembling* (pp. 267-275)
- **Thursday 11 October**: *Fear and Trembling* (cont’d)

### WEEK EIGHT
- **Tuesday 16 October**: Kierkegaard, *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (pp. 275-300)
- **Thursday 18 October**: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (cont’d); **MIDTERM EXAMS DUE**

### WEEK NINE
- **Tuesday 23 October**: Kierkegaard, *The Present Age* (pp. 300-308)
- **Thursday 25 October**: *The Present Age* (cont’d)

### WEEK TEN
- **Tuesday 30 October**: Introduction to Nietzsche (pp. 447-451); *The Genealogy of Morality* (pp. 461-476)
- **Thursday 1 November**: *The Genealogy of Morality* (cont’d)

### WEEK ELEVEN
- **Tuesday 6 November**: Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (pp. 476-479); *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 479-494)
- **Thursday 8 November**: *Twilight of the Idols* (cont’d)

### WEEK TWELVE
- **Tuesday 13 November**: Nietzsche, *The Will to Power* and *The Anti-Christ* (p. 495–end)
- **Thursday 15 November**: *The Will to Power* and *The Anti-Christ* (cont’d)
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<tr>
<th>WEEK THIRTEEN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 November</td>
<td>Introduction to Marx (pp. 308-312);</td>
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<td>Thursday 22 November</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<th>WEEK FOURTEEN</th>
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<th>WEEK FIFTEEN</th>
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<td>Tuesday 4 December</td>
<td>Marx, <em>Manifesto of the Communist Party</em> (pp. 340-350);</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6 December</td>
<td><em>Manifesto of the Communist Party</em> (cont’d);</td>
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<td></td>
<td>FINAL EXAMINATIONS DUE</td>
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