

Political Science 240/440
University of Chicago
Winter 1999–2000

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Hegel and Marx
(Topics in 19th Century European Political Thought)

Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30–11:50 am
Foster 305

This course will examine the work of two key figures in the development of European political theory and philosophy in the aftermath of the French Revolution: Hegel and Marx. Focusing on such themes as alienation, reconciliation, democracy, civil society, the state, action, history, and the relationship of philosophy to politics, we will read selections from Hegel's early political and cultural writings and from his *Phenomenology of Spirit*, as well as nearly all of the *Philosophy of Right* and selections from his late lectures on history. We will also read several of Marx's most important writings prior to the European revolutions of 1848, as well as some of his political reflections on those revolutions. The course will NOT include an extended consideration of Marx's mature critique of political economy.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Undergraduates: you must write a 5–7 page midterm paper (due February 21) AND an 8–10 page final paper (due March 14).
2. Graduate students: you may opt for the same requirements as undergraduates; or you may choose to write one 15–20 page term paper (due ~March 14) instead. If you choose the single term paper option, you must submit a proposal outlining your topic by February 21.
3. In addition, all students must write three brief (approximately 2-page) thought-pieces on the current week's reading over the course of the term. You may choose which weeks to submit these thought-pieces, but you MUST submit at least one by the end of the fourth full week of class (i.e., Friday, February 4). These thought-pieces are not individually graded, but failure to complete them will affect your course grade.
4. Late papers: Except in documented cases of serious illness or family emergencies, late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade per day of lateness; e.g., an A- paper two days late becomes a B.

GRADING

Grades will be calculated as follows: first paper 35%, second paper 55%, thought-pieces and class participation 10%.

READINGS

The following books contain required reading and are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore. The two items marked with “**” are books from which we will be reading relatively brief selections; they are available for purchase, but the relevant selections will also be made available to be downloaded from the Regenstein Reserves web site. All the books will also be placed on reserve at Regenstein.

- Hegel, *Early Theological Writings*, trans. Knox (CUP, 1971)
Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, trans. Miller (Oxford, 1977)
Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, ed. Wood (CUP, 1991)
Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History: Introduction*, trans. Nisbet (CUP, 1981)
Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd ed., ed. Tucker (Norton, 1978)
Marx, *Early Writings*, trans. Livingstone and Benton (Penguin, 1992)
Marx, *Later Political Writings*, ed. Carver (Cambridge, 1996).
**Kant, *Political Writings*, ed. Reiss, 2nd edition (Cambridge UP, 1991)
**Hegel, *Political Writings*, ed. Dickey and Nisbet (CUP, 1999)

WEEKLY MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS (TENTATIVE!)

Jan. 6: Introduction to the course.

No assigned reading.

Jan. 11: Background to Hegel: Enlightenment and Revolution

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” in *Political Writings*, 54–60.
Kant, “The Contest of Faculties,” in *Political Writings*, 176–90.

Jan. 13: The Young Hegel: The Critique of “Positivity” in Culture and Politics

“Positivity of the Christian Religion,” *Early Theological Writings*, 67–86, 135–51
“The Spirit of Christianity and its Fate,” in *Early Theological Writings*, 182–253.
“The German Constitution,” in *Political Writings*, 6–26, 98–101.

Jan. 18: “The Labor of the Negative”: The *Phenomenology of Spirit*, I

Phenomenology of Spirit, 1–66.

Jan. 20: Misrecognition, Ancient and Modern: The *Phenomenology of Spirit*, II

Phenomenology of Spirit, 111–19, 266–289, 355–63.

Jan. 25: Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*, I: Philosophy, Politics, and the Concept of the Will

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Preface, Introduction

Jan. 27: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, II: Property and Contract

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, sections 34–104.

Feb. 1: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, III: Ethical Life and the Family

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, sections 142–181.

Feb. 3: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, IV: Civil Society

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, sections 182–256.

Feb. 8: Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*, V: The State

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, sections 257–340.

Feb. 10: Hegel and History

Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, sections 341–360.

Hegel, *Lectures on the Philosophy of History: Introduction*, 44–93, 125–31,
196–209

Hegel, "Lectures on the Philosophy of History," in *Political Writings*, 197–224.

Feb. 15: In-class discussion of Hegel

No new reading assignment

Feb. 17: From Hegel to Marx

Marx, "For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything Existing," MER, 12–15

Marx, "Critique of Hegel's Doctrine of the State," *Early Writings*, selections TBA

Marx, "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's PhR: Introduction," MER, 53–65

Feb. 21: First paper due (UG or G) Term paper proposal due (G)

Feb. 22: Marx, *On the Jewish Question*

Marx, "On the Jewish Question," MER, 26–52

Feb. 24: Marx on Alienation

Marx, "Excerpts from James Mill," *Early Writings*, 259–78

Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844," MER, 66–125

Feb. 28: Marx on Ideology and Politics

Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," MER, 143–45
Marx, "The German Ideology," MER, 146–200
Marx, "Communist Manifesto," MER, 473–500.

March 2: Marx and 1848

Marx, "The Class Struggles in France," MER, 586–93.
Marx, "Address to the Communist League," MER, 501–11.
Marx, "The Eighteenth Brumaire," *Later Political Writings*, 31–127.

March 7: Final review and discussion

No new reading assignment

March 14: Second papers due by 5:00 pm (UG and G). Graduate term papers due Monday, March 27 (first day of Spring term) unless you have made other arrangements with me explicitly.