**Hegel to Heidegger**

**The Continental Tradition in**

**Modern European Intellectual History**

**Course Description:**

This course will survey the major currents and impulses that informed continental thought in the century and a half between 1790 and 1960. The birth of the continental tradition, as distinct from its Anglo-American counterpart, has its history in the Hegelian revolution, a moment when the pursuits of philosophy, history, and politics became inextricably linked.

In some respects, this tradition provided the theoretical underpinnings of the tragic and violent decline of the continent into the catastrophes of fascism, war, totalitarianism, and genocide. This same continental tradition, however, formulated what was and remains arguably the most critical, nuanced, and informed responses to the convulsions of modernity, responses that continue to challenge our conventional assumptions about interpersonal norms, political organization, or the nature and limits of human knowledge and agency.

At a time when our political and moral horizons have narrowed or at least settled considerably, a survey of the intellectual impulses that comprised continental thought offers a wide range of questions and attitudes that have, for the most part, been forgotten.

This course will ask what can – and should – be saved from this tradition.

**Course Requirements:**

Participation\* (15%)

First Paper (3-5 pages) (15%) Tues February 24

Midterm Examination (20%) Tues March 31

Second Paper (6-8 pages) (20%) Tues May 5

Final Examination (30%) Wed May 13 2:00pm

\* Your participation grade will be based on your presence and active participation in class. If you choose not to participate, you have the option of writing a five page essay (using one or multiple philosophical doctrines we will encounter) explaining why you have abstained from doing so.

**Course Schedule:**

**The Hegelian Revolution**

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: The French Enlightenment

* *What is Enlightenment,* Immanuel Kant, 1794
* *What is Enlightenment*, Michel Foucault, 1984

Session 3: Immanuel Kant

* Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason,* 1781(Introduction pp. 41-63)

Session 4: The German Romantic Reaction

* E.T.A. Hoffman, *The Sandman*, 1816

Session 5: The Hegelian Revolution I

* G.W.F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, 1807 (“Lord and Bondsman”)

Session 6: The Hegelian Revolution II

* G.W.F. Hegel, *Reason in History,* 1822 (pp. 14-96)

**Socialism/Marxism I – The Nineteenth Century**

Session 7: The Left Hegelians and Utopian Socialists

Session 8: Karl Marx I

* Karl Marx, *The German Ideology,* 1845 (Part I)

Session 9: Karl Marx II

* Karl Marx, \* *The Communist Manifesto* 1848(p. 473-491, 497-500)
* Karl Marx, \* *Das Kapital*, 1867(selections)

**Existentialism I – Nineteenth Century Roots**

Session 10: The Religious Existentialism of Soren Kierkegaard

* Soren Kierkegaard, \* *Fear and Trembling*, 1843 (Preamble and Problema I)

Session 11: **Film** *Hiroshima Mon Amour,* 1959 Alain Resnais

* **First Short Paper Due in Class**

Session 12: The Anti-Religious Existentialism of Friedrich Nietzsche I

* Friedrich Nietzsche, \* *The Twilight of the Idols and The Anti-Christ*, 1888

Session 13: The Anti-Religious Existentialism of Friedrich Nietzsche II

* Friedrich Nietzsche, \* *The Twilight of the Idols and The Anti-Christ*

Session 14: **Film** *Pierrot le Fou,* 1965 Jean-Luc Goddard

**Scientific Approaches to Society and the Self**

Session 15: Sigmund Freud

* Sigmund Freud, \* *The Ego and the Id,* 1923(selections)

Session 16: The Iron Cage of Max Weber

Session 17: **In-Class Midterm**

**Modernism and the Avant-Garde**

Session 18: Modernism in Painting, Music, Poetry and Architecture

* Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in Age of Mechanical Reproduction”, 1935

Session 19: WWI: Ernst Jünger and the Italian Futurists

* Ernst Jünger, “On Danger,” and “The Worker”, 1932

**Martin Heidegger: Phenomenology and Existentialism in the 20th Century**

Session 20: Edmund Husserl and the Early Heidegger

* \* Introduction to *Being and Time*, 1926 (pp. 41-87)

Session 21: Heidegger’s Turn and Ecology (guest lecture)

* Martin Heidegger, \* “The Question Concerning Technology*”*, 1949

**Film -** Evening Screening: *The Matrix*, 1999 The Wachowski brothers

**Existentialism II – The Phenomenological Roots of 20th Century Existentialism**

Session 22: Heidegger’s *Being and Time*, Division II

* *Being and Time* (selections)

**Film -** Evening Screening: *Ikiru,* 1952 Akira Kurosawa

**Socialism/Marxism II - The Frankfurt School of Social Research**

Session 23: Western Marxism

* Georg Lukas, *History and Class Consciousness,* “Reification and Proletarian Consciousness”, 1923

Session 24: The Frankfurt School I

* Adorno and Horkheimer, \* *The Dialectic of Enlightenment,* 1944 (first half)

Session 25: The Frankfurt School II

* Adorno and Horkheimer, \* *The Dialectic of Enlightenment* (second half)

**Structuralism and Post-Structuralism**

Session 26: Michel Foucault

* *Discipline and Punish,* 1975 (selections)

Session 27: Michel Foucault, Review, and Evaluations

* **Second Paper Due on Last Day of Class**