PHIL 465.01: Kant and Hegel

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

With his "Copernican Revolution," which purported to overcome the skepticism of empiricism and the dogmatism of rationalism by making objective knowledge dependent on the constituting faculties of the thinking subject, Kant launched the tradition that has come to be known as "continental philosophy," in which (in some sense) the self-reflexive first-person standpoint becomes an ineliminable part of every philosophical inquiry. Yet many of Kant's followers did not think that his revolution was radical enough, with its positing of an unknowable noumenal realm, and held that the moral philosophy which subsequently came to be based on this idea was overly rationalistic and individualistic. Even these critics found something to draw on in Kant's oeuvre, however, namely, his aesthetics, which was bound up with his delineation of reflective (as opposed to determinate) judgment. The various -- and often competing -- philosophical movements that Kant spawned culminated in the philosophy of Hegel, who, although drawing on Kant, rejected his (dualistic) metaphysics, the fixedness of the categories on which his epistemology was based, and his abstract morality in favor of a non-metaphysical framework that argues for both the fluid and social nature of the categories through which we come to know the world, and the collective, concrete nature of our ethical commitments. Much of subsequent continental philosophy has evolved within the force field of this dynamic encounter. We shall begin the course with the Critique of Pure Reason, focussing on those parts that are especially relevant for subsequent continental thinkers. We shall then examine the Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals and two important political essays, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent" and "On the Proverb: That May be True in Theory, but is of no Practical Use." Turning to Hegel, we shall consider the Phenomenology of Spirit and the Philosophy of Right.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kant  Critique of Pure Reason, tr. Smith, St. Martin's, 1929 ("CPR")
      Perpetual Peace and Other Essays, tr. Humphrey, Hackett, 1983 ("PP")

Hegel  Phenomenology of Spirit, tr. Miller, Oxford, 1977 ("Ph")
      Philosophy of Right, tr. Knox, Oxford, 1967 ("PR")

GRADING:

Two Exams: 30% each
Paper (10-12 pages): 40%
Class Attendance and Participation: Up to One Mark of a Letter Grade
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

January 30  Background
February 1  CPR 7-37 (Preface)
February 6  CPR 41-62 (Introduction)
February 8  CPR 65-91 (Transcendental Aesthetic)
February 13 CPR 92-128, 151-175 (Transcendental Analytic: The Categories and the Transcendental Unity of Apperception)
February 15 CPR 176-197, 244-247, 257-275 (Transcendental Analytic cont.: Schematism; Refutation of Idealism; Phenomena and Noumena)
February 27 FMM 3-22
March 1  FMM 22-63
March 6  FMM 63-82
March 8  PP 29-40 ("Idea for a Universal History")
March 13 PP 61-92 ("On the Proverb")
March 15 FIRST EXAM
March 20 SPRINGBREAK
March 22 SPRING BREAK
March 27 Ph 1-45 (Preface)
March 29 Ph 46-57 (Introduction)
April 3  Ph 58-79, 90-103 (Consciousness)
April 5  Ph 104-138 (Self-Consciousness)
April 10 Ph 139-145, 211-262 (Reason)
April 12 Ph 263-294 (Spirit: The Ethical Order)
April 17 Ph 349-383 (Spirit: The Enlightenment & The Terror/Morality)
April 19 Ph 410-416, 453-478, 479-493 (Religion and Absolute Knowing)
April 24 PR 1-13 (Preface)
April 26 PR 14-36 (Introduction)
May 1  PR 37-74 (Abstract Right)
May 3  PR 75-104 (Morality)
May 8  PR 105-155, 160-179
May 10 SECOND EXAM
May 14 PAPER DUE