

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
HEGEL'S PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT
PHILOSOPHY 721

Dr. De Nys
Fall 2016
Office: R B463
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Office Hours:
T 3:00 – 4:00
and by appointment

Text: *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*, translated by A. V. Miller

Assignments:

- a). A close reading of the text according to assignments scheduled each class day.
- b). Four critical essays, c. 5-6 pages, on selected texts and issues in the *Phenomenology*. Each of these essays must be submitted if one is to receive a passing grade for the course.
 - The first essay does not require use of the secondary literature, although you may of course use this.
 - For each of the remaining essays one must use two articles or book chapters from the secondary literature.
 - Each essay will count for 25% of the final grade.
 - The first essay will analyze the dialectic of "Sense-Certainty" and the transition from "Sense-Certainty" to "Perception." (Tentative date: 27 September).
 - The second essay will analyze the dialectic of "Understanding" and the transition from "Understanding" to "Self-Consciousness" (Tentative date: 18 October).
 - The third essay will analyze the transition from "Self-Consciousness" to "Reason" (Tentative date: 8 November).
 - The fourth essay will deal with issues in the final readings from the *Phenomenology* examined during the semester. (Due date: 13 December).

Description/Objectives:

A close, critical reading of selected chapters from Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. We will emphasize the chapters on Consciousness, Self-Consciousness, and Reason. At the end of the course we will at least briefly consider the conclusion that Hegel takes himself to reach on the *Phenomenology*. The course aims at a detailed analysis of selected texts in Hegel's *Phenomenology* and at an integrated and critical understanding of his conception of philosophy.

Philosophy 721
Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*

Additional Notes

Please note that in each class a reading assignment will be given for the next class. Please note as well that the due date given on the syllabus for the critical essays is, in three cases, specified as "tentative." That is to say, these dates are subject to modification. Each student is responsible for all announcements made in class regarding reading assignments, due dates for the required essays, and for all other announcements made about the course schedule or any other matters pertaining to the content and process of the course, whether or not one is in class on a given day.

NB: The last day for withdrawal without incurring a grade of **F** is Friday, 30 September 2016.

NB: No late essay will be accepted after the assigned due date except under conditions of extreme emergency.

NB: Incompletes will be given only under the most severe of circumstances and only if the student requests an IN of the Professor in writings prior to the final class of the semester.

NB: Plagiarism will count as a violation of the Honor Code in this course. I define plagiarism as the use of a meaningful phrase or more written by an author other than yourself, if not properly documented.