PH356-15 Post-Kantian Social and Political Philosophy: Hegel and Marx

22/23

Department
> Philosophy

Level
> Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader
> David James

Credit value
> 15

Module duration
> 10 weeks

Assessment
> 100% coursework

Study location
> University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will engage with some of the key writings of two highly influential figures in nineteenth-century Post-Kantian philosophy who have had a significant impact on modern social and political theory especially, Georg Friedrich Wilhelm Hegel (1770-1831) and Karl Marx (1818-1883). The module aims to provide an in-depth examination of, and critical engagement with Hegel's Elements of the Philosophy of Right, Marx's critique of the modern state and his theory of history. Particular attention will be paid to the various types of freedom that Hegel introduces, his attempt to situate personality and moral subjectivity within a modern form of ethical life (Sittlichkeit) so as to reconcile modern individualism with a human being's social nature, and to Marx's critique of the modern state as an alienated form of life which is destined to be replaced by communism.

Module aims

The module aims to provide an in-depth examination of, and critical engagement with, Hegel's Philosophy of Right, and to show how it provides the basis for Marx's critique of the modern state. The emphasis will be on a close reading of key texts and discussion of the issues that these texts raise.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module looks at central aspects of Hegel's Philosophy of Right and shows how this work provides the basis for Marx's critique of the modern state. Particular attention will be paid to the various types of freedom that Hegel introduces, and to his attempt to situate personality and moral subjectivity within a modern form of ethical life so as to reconcile modern individualism with a human being's social nature. Other issues to be discussed include Hegel's revolutionary conceptual distinction between civil society and the political state, which plays a key role in Marx's theory of the modern state as an alienated form of life.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Subject knowledge and understanding:… have a systematic understanding and knowledge of Hegel's Philosophy of Right and the major conceptual issues that it raises in connection with the nature of the modern state and the individual's place within it. The students should also be able to understand how Marx's critique of the modern state relates to Hegel's Philosophy of Right and to offer relevant support for and critical responses to the arguments and views set out by Hegel and Marx.
- Key skills: … should be able to communicate clearly and substantively in speech and in writing on the issues raised by their close reading and critical analysis of the relevant texts. They should be able to engage with these texts in a way that appreciates their potential relevance to present-day concerns while being sensitive to the historical context in which they were written. The students should also be able to evaluate critically the relevant secondary literature.
- Cognitive Skills)... be able to analyse and critically evaluate different theories and arguments presented in the primary texts, and to come to an independent assessment of their merits with the aid of relevant secondary literature. The students should also to be able to discern and critically evaluate the different types of argument employed.

Indicative reading list

Primary texts

G.W.F. Hegel, Elements of the Philosophy of Right (Cambridge University Press, 1991)
Karl Marx, Early Political Writings (Cambridge University Press, 1994)

Selected secondary texts

Avineri, S. The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx (Cambridge University Press, 1968)
Franco, P., Hegel's Philosophy of Freedom (Yale University Press, 1999)
James, D., Rousseau and German Idealism: Freedom, Dependence and Necessity (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

Neuhouser, F., Foundations of Hegel's Social Theory: Actualizing Freedom (Harvard University Press, 2000)
Pippin, R.B. and O. Hoffe, Hegel on Ethics and Politics (Cambridge University Press, 2004)
Wood, A. W., Hegel's Ethical Thought (Cambridge University Press, 1990)
Wood, A. W., Karl Marx (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981)

Subject specific skills

Have a systematic understanding and knowledge of Hegel's Philosophy of Right and the major conceptual issues that it raises in connection with the nature of the modern state and the individual's place within it. The students should also be able to understand how Marx's critique of the modern state relates to Hegel's Philosophy of Right and to offer relevant support for and critical responses to the arguments and views set out by Hegel and Marx.

Transferable skills

(a) The ability to communicate information (verbally and in written form) to people both expert and non-expert in the field; (b) The ability to analyse, evaluate, critique and apply complex information gathered from reading, reflection, reasoning or communication. (c) The ability to effectively manage schedules and deadlines.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (5%)
Private study	124 hours (83%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A4

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
500 word exercise 1	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
2500 word essay	80%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
500 word exercise 2	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the coversheet for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content. Feedback on examinations will be provided in the form of a summary report.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)

- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
  - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
  - Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 4 of UPHA-V701 Undergraduate Philosophy (wiith Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list B for:

- Year 2 of UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations

This module is Core option list F for:

- Year 4 of UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year

This module is Option list A for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
  - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
  - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
  - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
  - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list D for:

- UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
  - Year 2 of V1V7 History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of V1V7 History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)