

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

**24/25**

**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 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**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>
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 A5

	Weighting	Study time
500 word exercise 1	10%	
2500 word essay	80%	
500 word exercise 2	10%	

## 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:

- 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)
- UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
  - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
  - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
  - Year 2 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
  - Year 3 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
  - Year 4 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy

- Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 3 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 4 of UPHA-V701 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)
- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-V5L9 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
  - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
  - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ74 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature (with Work Placement)
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL80 Undergraduate Philosophy with Psychology (with Work Placement)
- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ53 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics (with Work Placement)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
  - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
  - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
  - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)

- Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MH Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Philosophy Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MF Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Economics/Politics Bipartite (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
  - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
- VQ54