
KANT, HEGEL, AND BEYOND in Fall 2018 (PL3076)

Course Code	PL3076	Professor(s)	Oliver Feltham
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	gl-19
Class Schedule	MR: 15:20-16:40 in C-104	Office Hours	Monday and Thursdays 12h30-13h30
Credits	4	Email	ofeltham@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	613

Course Description

Course Learning Outcomes

On the basis of close reading, to be able to define and reproduce key concepts and theses in Kant and Hegel's political philosophy

On the basis of close reading, to be able to analytically recompose important arguments, such as that leading to the role of regulative ideas in Kant.

To be able to construct, starting from a specified historical context, a philosophical question or problem in all of its depth within the domain of political modernity via Kant and Hegel, and, at an advanced level, to identify echoes and avatars of these problems in contemporary politics.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE

N.B This is a first draft of the schedule, it is flexible and liable to change as a function of our progress through the texts

PART ONE: How to create a political body in Plato

SEPTEMBER

Week 1 – 10th -14th

Monday 10th - Session 1

Lecture: Who claims superior knowledge in the city-state? Combatting the sophist

Readings: Book I of Plato's *Republic*

Corpus: *Gorgias*, *Protagoras*, *Sophist*

Concepts: Sophist, truth-claim, *techne* (art)

Wednesday 12th Reflective Seminar 1

Information literacy and research skills in the library: to be applied to your first philosophy essay

Thursday 13th – Session 2

Seminar: The sophist's challenge in the *Republic*: there is no such thing as justice

Readings: Book I of Plato's *Republic*

Exercises: Identification of a concept, analysis of an argument.

Concepts: Nominalism, ideology

September 16th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II - 17th - 21th

Monday 17th - Session 3

Lecture: The origin of the city-state: justice, class-division and the division of labour

Readings: *Republic*, Bk II 357a-376c; BkIII,416a-Bk IV,435b

Concepts: The division of labour, class, justice, analogy

Thursday 20th - Session 4

Seminar: The threat of false images: imitators, unruly passions and the force of the mob

Readings: *Republic*, Book II 376c-Bk III, 403c; Bk VII, 514a-518b; Bk X, 595a-608b

Concepts: the imitator, falsity, affect, opinion, democracy

Exercises: Argument-mapping of threats to the guardian's education, brainstorming the contemporary question of *mimesis*

Week III - 24th – 28nd

Monday 24th - Session 5

Lecture: Plato's psychology: the origins of vice and virtue, happiness and misery

Readings: *Republic*, Bk IV, 434d-445e; Bk VIII, 543a-BkIX, 580c.

Concepts: Functional analysis, vice, virtue, hedonism

Wednesday 26th – Reflective Seminar 2

Information literacy and research skills in the library

- How to accurately summarize a text
- Definition of concepts according to certain authors and within certain texts
- How to use sources to answer questions

Thursday 27th - Session 6

Seminar: How to create an 'army of lovers': a communist elite

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V 449a-471c

Concepts: Common property, republicanism

Exercise: Is Plato a proto-feminist or not in his argument for women as guardians? (Bk V, 451c-456b) Does he describe a program of eugenics, a brave new world or a utopia? (Bk V, 457c-465d)

Assessment: First take-home essay due (1000-1500 words)

PART TWO: How the philosopher gains superior knowledge of the cosmos and the Good

OCTOBER

Week IV – 1st - 5th

Monday 1st - Session 7

Lecture: Plato's critique of opinion, relativism and knowledge based on the senses

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V, 471c-Bk VII, 511e

Corpus: *Phaedo*, *Sophist*, *Statesman*, *Philebus*, *Theaetetus*

Concepts: absolute, relative, relativism, sensation, memory, analysis (*diarexis*), species, genre

Assessment: Assignment of topics for the public presentations in Session 13

Thursday 4th - Session 8

Seminar: On method: *diarexis*, dialectic, hypotheses

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V, 471c-Bk VII, 511e

Corpus: *Phaedo*, *Sophist*, *Statesman*, *Philebus*, *Theaetetus*

Concepts: dialectic, hypotheses, reasoning via the absurd, Sorites paradox

Week V – 8th - 12th

Monday 8th - Session 9

Lecture: How does the philosopher possess superior knowledge? The theory of Ideas

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V, 471c-Bk VII, Bk X.

Corpus: Alain Badiou, "Chapitre 9: Qu'est-ce qu'un philosophe 471c-484b", *La République de Platon*

Concepts: Dialectic, participation, imitation, absolute, relative, simulacra, Ideas, copies, degrees of being, utopia

Wednesday 10th – Reflective Seminar 3

Public speaking and slide-presentation skills + instructions for development of podcast storyboard

Thursday 11th - Session 10

Seminar: The descent of the idea into the world of practice: historical events and simulacra

Reading: *Republic*, Bk VIII-Bk IX, 580d.

Corpus: Plato's *Seventh Letter*

Concepts: Timocracy, oligarchy, democracy, tyranny, drones, imitation

Week VI - 15th - 19th

Monday 15th - Session 11

Lecture: Knowledge as reminiscence and the immortality of the soul

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V-VII, Bk X

Corpus: *Phaedo*, *Phaedrus*

Concepts: Reminiscence (anamnesis), incarnation, maieutics, dualism

Thursday 18th - Session 12

Lecture: Philosophy as a practice of immortality

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V-VII, Bk X

Corpus: *Apology*, *Crito*

Concepts: ascesis, the gadfly

Week VII – 22nd – 26th

Monday 22nd - Session 13

Lecture: How does the demiurge create the universe? Plato's cosmology

Readings: *Republic*, Bk V-VII, Bk X

Corpus: *Timaeus*, *Philebus*

Concepts: matter, demiurge, chora, teleology

Assessment: Public speaking exercise on your specialty in Plato

Wednesday 24th Reflective Seminar 4

Presentation of storyboards for podcasts (7-8 minutes)

Podcast production skills (bring your laptop/tablet)

PART THREE: How to create a political body in Aristotle

Thursday 25th - Session 14

Lecture: The natural growth of the city-state: sovereignty as the supreme good

Readings: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk I, Ch's 1-3; *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk I.

Corpus: Francis Woolf, *Aristote et le politique*.

Concepts: teleology (means and ends), sovereignty, *arche* (authority, rule, office), despotic rule, patriarchal rule

October 26th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – 29th – Nov.2nd

Monday 29th - Session 15

Seminar: On household management (*economics*) as the building block of the city-state

Readings: *Politics*, Bk 1, Chapt's 3-13.

Concepts: household management, acquisition of property

Exercise: Determine why unbridled money-making forms a threat to the household (Chapters 8-11.) Reconstruct Aristotle's definition and justification of slavery and find its weaknesses.

Assessment: Identification of topics for research papers on Aristotle

October 31ST - November 2nd, (included) fall break, No classes

NOVEMBER

Week IX – 5th – 9th

Monday 5th - Session 16

Lecture: Voluntary action, virtue and incontinence: happiness as the supreme good

Readings: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk 1- ; *Politics*, Bk VII, Ch's 1-3, 13-15.

Concepts: voluntary action, involuntary action, vice, virtue, supreme good, happiness, incontinence (*akrasia*), practical wisdom, the best life

Wednesday 7th Reflective Seminar 5

Site visit: bring walking shoes (pay attention to the rdv)

Thursday 8th - Session 17

Seminar: Who qualifies as a citizen?

Readings: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk 1, Bk III, Chapt's 1-5

Concepts: collective identity, collective responsibility, citizenship

Assessment: Abstracts and bibliographies (15 items) due for research papers on Aristotle

November 9th – last day to withdraw from a course/no credit option

Week X - 12th -16th

Monday 12th - Session 18

Lecture: What binds the city together? Justice and friendship

Readings: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk III, Chapt's 9-13; Bk V, Chapt. 1;

Corpus: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk V, Ch's 1-11.

Concepts: true friendship, distributive justice, rectificative justice, injustice

Thursday 15th - Session 19

Lecture: How to classify and rank different kinds of regime

Readings: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bk III Chapt 6-18; Bk IV

Corpus: Plato, *Republic*, Bk VIII

Concepts: claims to rule, correct vs deviated constitutions, problems with democracy, taxonomy

Week XI -19th – 23rd

Monday 19th - Session 20

Lecture: How to maintain power and avoid a revolution: political conflict

Readings: Aristotle, *Politics*, Bks V-VI

Corpus: Nicole Loraux, *La cité divisée*; Giorgio Agamben, *Stasis*; Hobbes, *Leviathan*; Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Concepts: faction (stasis)

Wednesday 21st Reflective Seminar 6

Presentation of Podcasts (10 minutes max) and anonymous feedback system

PART FOUR:

How to center a political body in an ordered universe

Thursday 22nd - Session 21

Lecture: The interpretation of being as substance in the *Metaphysics* (autarchy)

Readings: *Metaphysics*, Bk A, Ch's 1-3; Bk D, Ch's 1-

Corpus: Aristotle, *The Metaphysics, the Categories*; Pierre Aubenque, *Le problème de l'être chez Aristote*

Concepts: ontology, substance (*ousia*), substrate (*hypokeimenon*), formal, final, efficient and material cause, production, ontological priority, dependency, concrete vs formal substance, hylomorphism, plurivocity of being

Week XII -26th - 30th

Monday 26th - Session 22

Lecture: The analysis of change in the *Physics* and the encyclopedic project of zoology

Readings: Aristotle, *Physics*, Bk III, Ch.1

Corpus: the *Physics*, *Parts of Animals*; Pierre Morel, *Aristote*

Concepts: contraries, locomotion, generation and corruption, qualitative change

Assessment: Research paper on Aristotle due (2000-2500 words)

Thursday 29th - Session 23

Seminar: The nature of time and place, the disqualification of the void and infinity

Readings: Aristotle, *Physics*, Bk IV, Ch's 1-5

Corpus: Aristotle, *Physics*, Bk IV; Pierre Morel, *Aristote*

Exercise: Map out the challenges and solutions to a definition of place for Aristotle

DECEMBER

Week XIII – 3rd – 7th

Monday 3rd - Session 24

Lecture: The nature of the soul and the acquisition of knowledge

Readings:

Corpus: *On the Soul*, *Categories*, *Metaphysics*

Thursday 6th - Session 25

Seminar: What is scientific knowledge?

Readings: *Metaphysics* Bk D, Ch.3-4

Corpus: *First and Second Analytics, Topics, Metaphysics* Bk D

Concepts: syllogism, demonstration, induction, premises, intuition, principle of contradiction, excluded third

Week XIV - 10th - 14th

Monday 10th - Session 26

Lecture: The construction of a teleological and hierarchical cosmos: the prime mover

Readings: *Physics*, Bk VII, Ch's 1-2; Bk VIII (extracts to be determined)

Corpus: the *Physics*, *On the Heavens*, *Metaphysics*

Concepts: prime mover

December 12th, Last day of classes, December 13th -16th, Reading days

December 17th – 21st Final exams

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Basic Writings of	Kant	The Modern	9780375757334	Yes

Kant Elements of the Philosophy of Right	Hegel	Library Cambridge University Press	9780521348881	Yes
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Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

15% 1st take-home essay (1000-1500 words excluding citations, footnotes and bibliography)
due Thursday 27th September

20% Midterm Exam

30% Research paper (2000-2500 words excluding citations, footnotes and bibliography) due Monday 26th November

15% Attendance and participation

20% Final Exam

Other
