

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit

Fall 2021

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I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to Hegel's thought focused on the 1807 *Phenomenology of Spirit* (Original: *Phänomenologie des Geistes*). To understand this, I will first explain the general milieu of late German Idealism and Hegel's relationship to it. We will then focus on the body of the text especially the most well-known passages on Sense Certainty, Recognition (the Master/Slave Dialectic), and the forms of absolute knowing (Art, Religion, and Philosophy)

II. Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should

- Improve their ability to follow complex historical argument.
- Recognize and emulate the pattern of Hegelian dialectical argumentation.
- Be able to meaningfully and critically engage both theories.
- Recognize the impact of these philosophies on contemporary world cultures.

III. Required Texts

Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, translated by A. V. Miller (Oxford)

IV. Schedule

	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
Week 1	Background: Kant	Reading: "Who thinks Abstractly?"
Week 2	Background: German Idealism	Handout
Week 3	Preface: Sense-Certainty	Preface ¶¶ 1-72
Week 4	Hegel's Method	Introduction ¶¶ 73-89
Week 5	Consciousness	¶¶ 166-177
Week 6	Recognition	Mastery and Servitude ¶¶ 178-196
Week 7	Unhappy Consciousness	¶¶ 197-230
Week 8	Antiquity to Modernity	V§B, ¶¶ 349-357
Week 9	Individuality	¶¶ 394-436
Week 10	The Ethical World	¶¶ 437-475
Week 11	Absolute Freedom	¶¶ 582-595
Week 12	Conscience and the Beautiful Soul	¶¶ 632-671
Week 13	Absolute Spirit: Religion	¶¶ 672-684
Week 14	Manifest Religion	¶¶ 748-787
Week 15	Absolute Knowledge	¶¶ 788-808

V. Recommend Texts

- *The Hegel Myths and Legends*, ed. Jon Stewart
- *The Oxford Handbook of Hegel*, ed. Dean Moyar
- *Blackwell Guide to Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*, ed. Kenneth Westphal
- *The Phenomenology of Spirit Reader*, ed. Jon Stewart
- *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit: A Critical Guide*, ed. Dean Moyar and Michael Quante

- Beiser, Frederick, *Hegel*
- Ferrarin, Alfredo. *Hegel & Aristotle*.
- Port Chester, NY, USA: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Harris, H.S., *Hegel's Ladder I: The Pilgrimage of Reason*
- Harris, H.S., *Hegel's Ladder II: The Odyssey of Spirit*.
- Houlgate Stephen, *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit: A Reader's Guide*

- Houlgate, Stephen, *Freedom, Truth, and History: An Introduction to Hegel's Philosophy*
- Lauer, Q. A Reading of Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit
- Nuzzo, Angelica, *Memory, History, Justice in Hegel*
- Pinkard, Terry, *Hegel: A Biography*
- Pinkard, Terry, *Hegel's Phenomenology: The Sociality of Reason*
- Siep, Ludwig, *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*
- Solomon, Robert C., *In the Spirit of Hegel: A Study of G.W.F. Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*
- Stern, Robert, *Hegel and the Phenomenology of Spirit* (Routledge Guidebook)
- Taylor, Charles, *Hegel*
- Westphal, Merold, *History and Truth in Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*