

Philosophy of History

Meade McCloughan, 6th February 2012

Course Outline and Bibliography

Week One: Philosophical history in the enlightenment and counter-enlightenment

Further reading on historicism:

- Beiser, Frederick, *Hegel* (Routledge, 2005), pp. 29-30; see also pp. 261-263
- Beiser, Frederick, 'Historicism', *Oxford Handbook of Continental Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2007), Chapter 5
- Forster, Michael, *Hegel's Idea of a Phenomenology of Spirit* (University of Chicago Press, 1998), pp. 486-487
- Forster, Michael, 'Johann Gottfried von Herder', [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#), esp. §§4 & 8

Week Two: Kant: universal history

'Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim' (1784)

- *Anthropology, History and Education* (Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant), tr. Allen Wood (Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- Kant: *Political Writings* (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought), tr. Nisbet (Cambridge University Press, 1991)
- *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays on Politics, History, and Morals*, tr. Humphrey (Hackett, 1983)
- *Kant: On History*, tr. Beck (Macmillan, 1966) [this translation is available [here](#)]

Other Kant texts

- 'On the common saying: That may be correct in theory, but it is of no use in practice' (1793), Part Three [in the Nisbet and Humphrey collections listed above]
- *Perpetual Peace* (1795), First Supplement [in the Nisbet, Humphrey and Beck collections]
- *The Conflict of the Faculties* (1798), Part Two 'An old question raised again' [in the Nisbet and Beck collections]

Secondary reading

- Guyer, Paul, *Kant* (Routledge, 2006) chapter 11
- Rauscher, Frederick, 'Kant's Social and Political Philosophy', §8 [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- Wood, A.W., *Kant* (Blackwell, 2006), chapter 6 'Philosophy of history'

Week Three: Hegel: speculative history

Lectures on the Philosophy of History (1822-31)

- *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History: Introduction*, tr. Nisbet (Cambridge, 1980)
- *The Hegel Reader*, ed. Houlgate (Blackwell, 1998) chapter 27 (extracts from the Introduction)
- *Introduction to the Philosophy of History, with Selections from the Philosophy of Right*, tr. Rauch (Hackett, 1988)
- *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History, Volume 1: Manuscripts of the Introduction and the Lectures of 1822-3*, tr. Brown and Hodgson (Oxford, 2011)
- 'Lectures on the Philosophy of History: Part IV, Section 3: The new age', in *Hegel: Political Writings*, trans. Nisbet (Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 197-224
- *The Philosophy of History*, tr. Sibree (1899) – can also be found [here](#)

Secondary reading

- Beiser, Frederick, 'Hegel's historicism', *The Cambridge Companion to Hegel*, ed. Beiser (Cambridge University Press, 1993)
- Beiser, Frederick, *Hegel* (Routledge, 2005), ch. 11 'Philosophy of History'
- Houlgate, Stephen, 'World History as the Progress of Consciousness', in both *G.W.F. Hegel: Critical Assessments*, volume IV, ed. R. Stern and *Hegel*, volume II, ed. D. Lamb (Ashgate, 1998)
- McCarney, Joseph, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Hegel on History* (Routledge, 2000)

Week Four: Marx: historical materialism

Texts

- 'Notes on Mill' (1844) (MECW vol. 3 / EW / KMSW)
- *The Poverty of Philosophy* (1847) (MECW vol. 6 / KMSW)
- *The Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848) (MECW vol. 6 / R1848 / KMSW)
- 'The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte' (1852) (MECW 11 / SE / KMSW)
- 'The British Rule in India' (1853) (MECW vol. 12 / SE / not in KMSW)
- 'The Future Results of the British Rule in India' (1853) (MECW vol. 12 / SE / KMSW)
- *Grundrisse* (1857-58) (MECW vols 28-29 / Gr / KMSW)
- *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, 'Preface' (1859) (MECW vol. 29 / EW / KMSW)
- *Capital*, vol. 1, 'Postface' (1873) (MECW vol. 35 / C1 / KMSW)
- *Capital*, vol. 3, chapter 48 (1863-83) (MECW vol. 37 / C3 / KMSW)
- 'Critique of the Gotha Programme' (1875) (MECW vol. 24 / FI&A / KMSW)

Sources

- MECW: *Marx-Engels Collected Works* (50 volumes, Lawrence and Wishart, 1975-2004)
- EW: *Early Writings* (Pelican Marx Library 1975)
- FI&A: *The First International and After: Political Writings, Volume 3* (Pelican Marx Library 1974)
- R1848: *The Revolutions of 1848: Political Writings, Volume 1* (Pelican Marx Library 1973)
- SE: *Surveys from Exile: Political Writings, Volume 2* (Pelican Marx Library 1973)
- Gr: *Grundrisse* (Pelican Marx Library 1973)
- C1: *Capital, Volume 1* (Pelican Marx Library 1976)
- C3: *Capital, Volume 3* (Pelican Marx Library 1981)
- KMSW: *Karl Marx Selected Writings*, ed. D. McLellan, second edition (Oxford University Press, 2000)
- all texts are also available via the [Marxists Internet Archive](http://www.marxists.org)

Secondary reading

- Ameriks, Karl, 'Feuerbach, Marx, and Kierkegaard', *The Cambridge Companion to German Idealism*, ed. Ameriks (Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 271-273
- Cohen, G. A., *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence* (Oxford University Press, 1978/2000)
- Cohen, G. A., *If You're an Egalitarian, How Come You're So Rich?* (Harvard University Press, 2000), chapters 3-6
- Elster, Jon, *Making Sense of Marx* (Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 37-48 (dialectic), 107-119 (history) and 521-527 (communism)
- Wood, Allen, *Karl Marx* (Routledge, 1981/2004), chapters 8, 13 and 14

Week Five: Nietzsche: the uses and disadvantages of history for life

'On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life' (1874)

- *Untimely Meditations*, tr. Hollingdale (Cambridge University Press, 1983, 1997)
- *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*, tr. Preuss (Hackett, 1988)
- Ian Johnston's translation: <http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/history.htm>

Week Six: Nietzsche: genealogy and the critique of progress

On the Genealogy of Morality (1887)

- *On the Genealogy of Morality*, tr. Diethe (Cambridge University Press, 1994)
- *On the Genealogy of Morality*, tr. Clark and Swensen (Hackett, 1998)
- Ian Johnston's translation: <http://records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/Nietzsche/genealogytofc.htm>

Other Nietzsche texts

- *Daybreak/Dawn* (1881) (various editions) §554
- *The Gay Science* (1887) (various editions), §377
- *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886) (various editions), §§200, 215, 223
- *The Antichrist* (1888) (various editions), §4
- *The Twilight of the Idols* (1888) (various editions), IX§43
- *The Will to Power*, tr. Kaufmann and Hollingdale (Vintage, 1967), §§11, 20, 90, 243, 339 & 684

Secondary reading

- Forster, Michael, 'Genealogy', *American Dialectic* 1.2 (2011), [available here](#)
- Forster, Michael, 'Genealogy and Morality', *American Dialectic*, 1.3 (2011) [available here](#)
- Richardson, John, 'Nietzsche's Problem of the Past', pdf [available here](#) (or via [his webpage](#))

Week Seven: Heidegger: existential historicity

Being and Time (1927)

- *Being and Time*, tr. Macquarrie and Robinson (Blackwell, 1962), pp. 424-449
- *Being and Time*, tr. Stambaugh (State University of New York, 1996)

Secondary reading

- Blattner, William, *Heidegger's Being and Time: A Reader's Guide* (Continuum, 2006)
- Dreyfus, Hubert, *Being-in-the-world: a Commentary on Heidegger's Being and Time, Division I* (MIT, 1991)
- Guignon, Charles, 'History and Commitment in the Early Heidegger', in *Heidegger: A Critical Reader*, eds Dreyfus and Hall (Blackwell, 1991)
- Wheeler, Michael, 'Martin Heidegger', [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#), esp. section 2.3
- Mulhall, Stephen, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Heidegger and Being and Time* (Routledge, 1996), pp. 165-181

Week Eight: Benjamin: messianic history

'On the concept of history' (1940)

- *Illuminations*, tr. Zohn [as 'Theses on the Philosophy of History'] (various, 1968 onwards)
- *Selected Writings*, vol. 4: 1938-1940 (Harvard, 2003)

Other Benjamin texts

- Convolut N: [On the Theory of Knowledge, Theory of Progress], *Arcades Project*, pp. 457-488 (Harvard, 1999); also in *Benjamin: Philosophy, Aesthetics, History*, ed. G. Smith (Chicago, 1989), chapter 4
- 'Paralipomena to "On The Concept Of History"', *Selected Writings*, vol. 4: 1938-1940 (Harvard, 2003), pp. 401-411

Secondary reading

- Beiner, Ronald, 'Walter Benjamin's Philosophy of History', *Political Theory* 12.3 (1984)
- Kittsteiner, H.-D., 'Walter Benjamin's Historicism', *New German Critique* 39:179-215 (1986)
- Löwy, Michael, *Fire Alarm: Reading Walter Benjamin's On the Concept of History* (Verso, 2005)
- Tiedemann, Rolf, 'Historical Materialism or Political Messianism?' (originally 1983), in *Benjamin: Philosophy, Aesthetics, History*, ed. G. Smith (Chicago, 1989), pp. 175-209

Week Nine: Adorno: history as catastrophe?

Negative Dialectics (1966)

- *Negative Dialectics*, tr. Ashton (Routledge, 1990)
- Dennis Redmond's translation: <http://www.efn.org/~dredmond/ndtrans.html>

Other Adorno texts

- 'Progress' (1964), in *Critical Models: Interventions and Catchwords*, tr. Pickford (Columbia University Press, 1998) [reworks some of the material from the *History and Freedom* lectures]
- 'On Subject and Object', (1960s), in *Critical Models: Interventions and Catchwords*, tr. Pickford (Columbia University Press, 1998)
- *History and Freedom: Lectures 1964-1965* (Polity, 2006)

Secondary reading

- Zuidervaart, Lambert, 'Theodor W. Adorno', [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (general introduction)

Week Ten: Foucault: historicity, genealogy and 'the end of man'

'Nietzsche, genealogy, history' (1971)

- *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews*, ed. Bouchard (Cornell University Press, 1980)
- *The Foucault Reader: An Introduction to Foucault's Thought*, ed. Rabinow (Penguin, 1991)
- *Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984*, volume 2 (Penguin, 2000)
- *The Essential Foucault: Selections From the Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984*, eds Rabinow and Rose (The New Press, 2003)

Other Foucault texts

- *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* (originally 1966) (Routledge, 2001)
- Interview with Foucault (1983) [entitled 'Structuralism and Post-structuralism'], in *Essential Work of Foucault: 1954-1985*, volume 2 (as above), pp. 433-458 and also in *The Essential Foucault* (as above), pp. 80-101

Secondary reading

- Gutting, Gary (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Foucault*, second edition (Cambridge University Press, 2005), especially the Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 and 8
- Gutting, Gary, 'Michel Foucault', [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)