

Faculty of Arts
Department of Philosophy
PHL 505: Hegel and Marx
Mondays 1-2 pm, EPH142
Wednesdays 12-2 pm, RCC201

Instructor Name: Boris Hennig
Office Location: JOR - 438
Office Hours: Mondays 10am-12pm
Email address: <my last name>@ryerson.ca

Please use your Ryerson e-mail account and state your course and student number.

Calendar Description

Hegel and Marx were influential for introducing the notion that our lives only make sense when understood historically, in relation to our struggle with nature and with each other. We'll see that whereas Hegel saw this struggle as oriented towards greater self-knowledge and the freedom of the human spirit, Marx saw it in materialist terms, arguing that economic exploitation, and in particular capitalism, is the main obstacle to human freedom.

Course Details

We will read the famous “master / slave” passage from Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and some parts of his *Encyclopedia* that are relevant for political philosophy. Then we will turn to Marx, begin with a couple of minor writings and finally turn to parts of the *Capital*.

Textbooks

- G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Mind*, tr. Wallace / Miller / Inwood. Oxford University Press 2007.
- Karl Marx, *Selected Writings*, ed. Lawrence H. Simon. Hackett 1994.

I encourage students to buy used copies of the textbooks. If you want to help small bookshops, try to avoid the major booksellers.

A course website is accessible via <http://my.ryerson.ca>.

Note on Liberal Studies

This course is designated as an upper level Liberal Studies course. Please note that certain liberal studies courses, due to their close relation to the professional fields, cannot be taken for Liberal Studies credit by students in some programs. A list of these programs and the restricted courses is provided in Table A Lower Level Restrictions and Table B Upper Level Restrictions in the Ryerson calendar.

Please note that Liberal Studies courses always have the designation (LL) or (UL) in their course description in the Ryerson Calendar. Courses not identified as either (LL) or (UL) are NOT Liberal Studies courses and will not be used towards the fulfillment of a Liberal Studies Requirement for graduation purposes. Students are responsible for making appropriate course selections. Refer to Table A (Lower Level) and Table B (Upper Level) in Ryerson's calendar for a complete list of liberal studies courses.

(Tentative) Schedule

M 01/18 Introduction: **Hegel**

W 01/20 *Phenomenology of Spirit* §166-177 (provided on the course website)

M 01/25 — §178-189

W 01/27 — §190-196

01/31 Due date: 200 word statement on *Phenomenology of Spirit* §177-196

M 02/01 *Philosophy of Mind (Encyclopedia)* §377-386

W 02/03 — §413-439

M 02/08 — §483-487

W 02/10 — §513-534

Study Week

M 02/22 — §535-552

W 02/24 — cont.

02/28 Due date: 200 word statement on *Philosophy of Mind* §177-196

M 02/29 Introduction: **Marx** (Optional reading: Aristotle, *Politics* VII 8, course website)

W 03/02 *Wage-Labour and Capital* (course website)

M 03/07 *Theses on Feuerbach*

W 03/09 *Communist Manifesto*

M 03/14 *Excerpt-Notes of 1844: Money and Alienated Man*

W 03/16 — Free Human Production

M 03/21 *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts (1844): Alienated Labour*

W 03/23 — Private Property and Communism

03/27 Due date: 200 word statement on alienation

M 03/28 *Capital* I 1-3: Commodity, Exchange, and Money (Overview)

W 03/30 — ch. 4: The General Formula for Capital

M 04/04 — ch. 6: Sale and Purchase of Labour-Power

W 04/06 — ch. 7: Labour Process and Valorization Process

M 04/11 — ch. 26: Secret of Primitive Accumulation

W 04/13 — ch. 32: Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation

04/17 Due date: 200 word statement on the *Capital*

04/24 Due date: Final essay

Evaluation

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Participation: 15 %
- Four 200 word statements, each 5%: 20%
- 1500 word Essay: 65 %

Participation in **in-class discussions** will be essential for success.

You will be expected to write **four statements** of about 200 words on the following topics:

- (1) Refer to a specific passage in Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* 177-196, explain what it means, and comment on it. Due January 31st.
- (2) Refer to a specific passage in Hegel's *Philosophy of Mind* 377-552, explain what it means, and comment on it. Due February 28th.
- (3) What is alienation? What is bad about it? Can it be fixed? Due March 27th.
- (4) Refer to a specific passage in Marx's *Capital*. Explain what it means and comment on it. Due April 17th.

Finally, you will be expected to write an **essay** of about 1500 words about a topic of your choice. Try to tell a unified story about a philosophical or political issue, and use the writings of Hegel and/or Marx to support your views. Refer to and explain specific passages in one or more of the assigned readings. Present and defend more than one side of a debate. The essay is due April 24th.

All written assignments must be submitted online. MS Word and Adobe pdf are acceptable. Further formal requirements: 12pt, double spaced, reference list with proper bibliographical details for all material quoted and used.

The essay will be evaluated for clarity of organization, logic, syntax, grammar, and content. All written assignments will be checked for plagiarism.

Missed Classes and/or Evaluations

Students are required to inform their instructors of any situation which arises during the semester which may have an adverse effect upon their academic performance, and must request any considerations and accommodations according to the relevant policies and well in advance. Failure to do so will jeopardize any academic appeals.

- *Medical certificates* – If a student misses the deadline for submitting an assignment, or the date of an exam or other evaluation component because of illness, he or she must submit a Ryerson Student Medical Certificate AND an Academic Consideration form within 3 working days of the missed date. Both documents are available at www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/medical.pdf. If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit your forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit your forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School. If you need clarification, speak to your professor.
- *Religious observance* – If a student needs accommodation because of religious observance, he or she must submit a Request for Accommodation of Student Religious, Aboriginal and Spiritual Observance AND an Academic Consideration form within the first 2 weeks of the class or, for a final examination, within 2 weeks of the posting of the examination schedule. If the required absence occurs within the first 2 weeks of classes, or the dates are not known well in advance as they are linked to other conditions, these forms should be submitted with as much lead time as possible in advance of the required absence. Both documents are available at <http://>

www.ryerson.ca/senate/forms/reobservforminstr.pdf. If you are a full-time or part-time degree student, then you submit the forms to your own program department or school. If you are a certificate or non-certificate student, then you submit the forms to the staff at the front desk of the Chang School.

- *Students who need academic accommodation support* should register with the [Academic Accommodation Support office](#) (formerly called the Access Centre). Before the first graded work is due, registered students should inform their instructors through an “Accommodation Form for Professors” that they are registered with Academic Accommodation Support and what accommodations are required.

Student Code of Academic Conduct

Ryerson’s Policy 60 (now called the *Academic Integrity policy*) applies to all students at the University. The policy and its procedures are triggered in the event that there is a suspicion that a student has engaged in a form of academic misconduct.

Forms of academic misconduct include plagiarism, cheating, supplying false information to the University, and other acts. The most common form of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and penalties can be severe. In any academic exercise, plagiarism occurs when one offers as one’s own work the words, data, ideas, arguments, calculations, designs or productions of another without appropriate attribution or when one allows one’s work to be copied.

All academic work must be submitted using the citation style approved by the instructor. Students may refer to the Ryerson Library’s list of [Citations and Style Guides](#) for more information.

It is assumed that all examinations and work submitted for evaluation and course credit will be the product of individual effort, except in the case of group projects arranged for and approved by the course instructor. Submitting the same work to more than one course, without instructor approval, is also considered a form of plagiarism.

Students are advised that suspicions of academic misconduct may be referred to the Academic Integrity Office (AIO). Students who are found to have committed academic misconduct will have a Disciplinary Notation (DN) placed on their academic record (not on their transcript) and will be assigned one or more of the following penalties:

- A grade reduction for the work, include a grade of zero for the work.
- A grade reduction in the course greater than a zero on the work. (Note that this penalty can only be applied to course components worth 10% or less, that any additional penalty cannot exceed 10% of the final course grade, and that information explaining that such a penalty will be assigned must be included on the course outline.)
- An F in the course.
- More serious penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.

All written assignments will be checked for **plagiarism**. One of the means for doing this will be turnitin.com. This is a plagiarism prevention and detection service to which Ryerson subscribes. It is a tool to assist faculty members in determining the similarity between students’ work and the work of other students who have submitted papers to the site (at any university), internet sources, and a wide range of journals and other publications. While it does not contain all possible sources, it gives faculty some assurance that students’ work is their own. No decisions are made by the service; it simply generates an “originality report,” and faculty must evaluate that report to determine if something is plagiarized.

Students who do not want their work submitted to this plagiarism detection service must, by the end of the second week of class, consult with the instructor to make alternate arrangements.

Important Resources Available at Ryerson

- The Library provides research workshops and individual assistance. Inquire at the Reference Desk on the second floor of the library, or go to www.ryerson.ca/library/info/workshops.html
- [Student Learning Support](#) offers group-based and individual help with writing, math, study skills and transition support, and other issues.