



This course is located within Romantic philosophy and thought, broadly conceived. However, the issues it raises about the nature of interdisciplinarity and the difference between speculation and positivism are also issues that animate contemporary Theory, and students are welcome to take the material of the course in these directions in their essays.

**TIMETABLE** (approximate)

[Please note: I have to cancel and reschedule the first class, some time before Thanksgiving, in consultation with the class. The Introduction of Reading Week has also reduced some first term seminars to 12 weeks. It may therefore be necessary to continue until 5 on some class days.]

- I: Sept. 18      Introduction to the course. Hegel's Encyclopedia project and the relation between disciplines. Derrida on the "encyclopedia." The life sciences in the period as this course's particular way of focusing this larger issue, which pertains to what constitutes "theory" as opposed to "philosophy." Foucault's reprise of the encyclopedic project in *The Order of Things*. His discussion of the transition from "natural history" to the "history of nature" in the 19thc.
- Readings: Hegel, Preface to the *Encyclopedia*; Foucault, *Order of Things*, Chapters IX (the quadrilateral of figures), X; Kant, "Architectonic" (first 3 pp.); Hegel, *Philosophy of Nature*
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- VIII. Nov.6 Introduction to Hunter. His radical empiricism, array of topics he covers, his Museum, loss of manuscripts, editing and reception of his work. Disciplinary categorization of his work. Cultural agendas of epistemic (dis)organization. Romantic vs Victorian.
- Readings for classes VIII-X: TBD depending on seminars, but will include  
*Lectures on Surgery*, ToC, Chapters 2-4, 9, and a glance at 6 at 10 (*Surgical Works*, Vol. 1); “On the Stomach Digesting Itself After Death” (Works, IV); the Advertisement, and pp. I.1-41 of Owen (ed.), *Essays and Observations*; the ToC of both volumes of the above.
- IX. Nov.13 Above contd. “Philosophical Continents”– the different cultural and epistemic imperatives of German vs British science in the 18th-19thc. The German development of John Brown’s *Elements of Medicine*. British Idealism, with specific focus on how Green and Coleridge took up (immunized?) *Naturphilosophie*. Empiricism/materialism as a volatile (un)ground.
- X. Nov. 20 Above contd. if necessary. Classes XI and XII will focus on seminars. The exact readings for Classes X-XII will depend on seminars chosen.
- XI. Nov. 27 Esposito, Foucault, Malabou.
- XII Dec. 4 Esposito, Foucault, Malabou.

**READINGS:**

All material will be provided via Dropbox, though it is recommended that you buy Hegel’s *Philosophy of Nature*, Schelling’s *First Outline*, and Foucault’s *Order of Things*, as the experience of reading on screen rather than reading print is not conducive to retention. Even though I will be using selections, I will provide the whole text in many cases. I will also provide a sheet of crucial supplementary quotes that I’ll use in each class. Readings will be drawn from:

G.W.F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Nature* (section on *Organics*); *Aesthetics* (last section of the Introduction).

F.W.J. Schelling, *First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature* (selections); *Introduction to the Outline* (selections); *Freedom essay* (important sections to be highlighted); “On the Nature of Philosop >>.6(ne)b7( P)ocaa

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### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

You will be required to give a seminar (written up and handed in a week later), to respond to a seminar, to post a book review, and to write a major essay. The essay can be in part a development of the seminar, but if so, it should add something significant to the seminar (see below).

The distribution of grades is as follows:

**PARTICIPATION:** 10%

This grade will be based on your seminar response, your questions (assigned for a particular week, and attendance and general participation.

*Response:* Each student seminar will have a student respondent. The response must take up the argument of the seminar, but may critique it (constructively), offer another point of view, or take up an aspect of the topic not covered in the seminar. In any case it should offer something substantive, and raise discussion points (5-8 minutes). The respondent should coordinate with the student presenting the seminar about seeing the seminar in advance. It follows that the respondent is also responsible for reading the whole text being covered in the seminar, and not just a selection (or in the case of a formidable text such as the *Philosophy of Nature* or the *First Outline*, responsible for glancing at the whole text and reading the assigned section thoroughly)

*Questions:* In classes where there is no seminar (beginning in Wk 2) a student will be randomly assigned to raise two provocative and far-reaching questions about one of the readings for the day. You should have some speculative answers to your own question

*Other Participation* (including attendance): Attendance is a required part of this course. If you miss more than two classes without good reason (ie medical or compassionate reasons, NOT because you have to write an essay for another course), you will lose 3-5% out of the total 10% grade (ie your final course grade will be 3-5% lower).

**BOOK REVIEW:** (10%) In order to develop your skill with handling important secondary material and critiquing arguments, you will be required to submit to me and to post (in Dropbox), a 2-3 page *single-spaced* review of a book or crucial part thereof. This assignment will be graded but will not receive comments due to its brevity. The book reviews are also a resource for the class, and so will be included in a Dropbox subfolder. A list of books will be sent out shortly. No more than two students should review any one book, so choices must be cleared with me. You may choose to review something not on the list, but it must be relevant to this course and the choice should be cleared with me. Reviews will be due between Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, depending on when we are covering the relevant material. They are due no later than Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> to avoid backup of assignments. There will be a penalty if this deadline is not met.

**SEMINAR:** 25%. The seminar should be modelled on the academic conference paper. It should take no more than 25 minutes, should be succinct, suggestive, but comprehensive. Please send the paper to me via e mail on the Monday morning before the class. Please also send it to your respondent by then or preferably earlier. No more than a week after presentation of the seminar, please give me a hard copy of your formal write-up of the seminar, which has taken account of any relevant class discussion and which includes a Works Cited. Seminar Topics will be distributed shortly.

**ESSAY:** (55%). The major paper must show evidence of secondary reading and original research. Just focusing on one or two primary texts is not sufficient, as more is expected in the professional contexts for which the final paper stands in (ie conference papers, articles, even SSHRCC applications). Indeed if you limit yourself to one text, evidence that you are familiar with other work by the theorist is necessary (ie don't write a paper just on Schelling's "On the Nature of Philosophy as Science."). You may develop your seminar in further and new directions for the final paper, but if you do so, you must add significantly in content to the seminar; i.e. you can't just lengthen the seminar by adding more quotations. For instance,

if you do a seminar on chemistry in Schelling's *First Outline*, you could write a paper on interrelationships between chemistry, physics and physiology in that text; or you could write a paper on the role of chemistry in Schelling and Hegel. Students doing a final paper that is completely different from their seminar must submit a paper of 5000-6000 words. A paper of 15 pages will be considered insufficient. Students doing a final paper that overlaps with their seminar should submit a longer paper of 6000-7500 words and should hand in their seminar with the paper. Please consult with me if taking this option. The paper must contain a bibliography (not just a Works Cited; a Bibliography with just 2 or 3 works is not sufficient). The paper should follow either the MLA or Chicago Style format for references.

**Due date for final paper:** By 4 pm Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at the English Department main office in UC, or by 6pm on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at my house (870 Wellington Street, SE corner of Wellington and Grosvenor). All essays **must** be submitted in **hard** copy, and also sent to me electronically as a precaution in Word 97-2003, Compatibility Mode. I will be out of the country from Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>-Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, and will not have reliable access to e mail, or access to printing facilities (also, please note, I'm a technological dinosaur, and although I have Word 2015, my computer refuses to download except in Word 97-2003, and messes up the formatting of word 2015). After the 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a late penalty of 2% per day.

### **Late Penalties and Incompletes**

\*Failure to deliver a seminar creates a problem for the entire class and its scheduling. Anyone who fails to deliver a seminar on the assigned date will have to submit it in writing within a week in order to receive a grade no higher than 70%.

\*Late essays will be penalised at the rate of 2% per day.

\*Attendance in class is part of the participation mark. A student who misses more than two classes without a good reason will forfeit part of the participation mark.

\*Incompletes must be approved by the Centre Director (or by the student's home department) in consultation with the instructor. Academic accommodation for reasons of illness will be granted, following the university's policy, which requires documentation to be submitted to the Dean of the Faculty in a timely fashion. The policy can be obtained from the Centre submne0 Twu4.7(52 Td [(F)1.710.9(i)e)-1.6(n)10