State, Society, and Religion in Hegel's Philosophy
Syllabus

Course Code: ICS 153303 / 253303 S24
Dates: May 7 - June 20, 2024
Remote (Online Synchronous)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1 pm - 3 pm EST
Instructor: **Dr. Andrew Tebbutt**



This course explores the interrelation of political, social, and religious life in G. W. F. Hegel's thought. Students will be equipped to reflect critically on these domains of human experience by acquiring an understanding of Hegel's philosophy of religion and political philosophy. Readings will be drawn from Hegel's lectures on art and religion, as well as his works *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* and *Phenomenology of Spirit*. We will explore the political and social conditions of human experience through the lens of what Hegel calls "objective spirit," focusing in particular on how our freedom as self-conscious beings is enabled and supported by the domains of ethical life, law, and civil society. We will also explore Hegel's account of the human engagement in "absolute spirit," attending to the distinctive practices of art and religion, and to how these practices are interwoven with social and political life. We will also consider Hegel's role in the construction of the modern West's category of religion, and on what is involved in thinking about religion and religious difference (and Hegel's philosophy itself) beyond Eurocentrism.

Course Requirements

- *Reading:* 1250 pages, including both assigned reading and research for course paper. ● *Participation:* Students should prepare for and conduct themselves in class by being mindful of the elements that make for good conversation: engaging thoughtfully with the material, offering balanced contributions (neither dominating the discussion nor being too quiet), being oriented toward the shared agenda, being respectful of others, etc. ● *In-seminar leadership:* Students will assume the leadership responsibilities for a portion of one (or two, depending on enrolment and scheduling) of our class meetings. Further details will be provided in class.
- *Research Paper:* Students taking the course for credit will complete a research paper on a topic that arises from class reading and discussion (M.A. students, 3000-6000 words; Ph.D. students, 5000-7000 words).
- Weighting of elements to be evaluated:
    - Class participation: 15%
    - Seminar Presentation(s): 35%
    - Research Project/Paper: 50%

Required Readings

**Required readings will be taken from the following works and posted to the Google Classroom:*

Assigned selections in bold. All readings are by G. W. F. Hegel.

"The Spirit of Christianity and its Fate," in *Early Theological Writings*. Translated by T. M. Knox. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1971. **(pp. 182-301) [119 pages] (339 pages)**
Electronic access available through UofT catalogue to eBook version for students with UTORids and library card access

"Chapter VII: Religion," in *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Edited by J. N. Findlay. Translated by Arnold V. Miller. Oxford University Press, 1977. **(pp. 410-478) [68 pages] (595 pages)**
Physical copy available at ICS Library and other UofT libraries

Hegel's Aesthetics: Lectures on Fine Art. Volume 1. Translated by T. M. Knox. Oxford: University Press, 1975. **(pp. 91-105, 517-551)** [14 pages] + [34 pages] **= [48 pages] (638 pages)**
Electronic access available through Uoft catalogue to eBook version for students with UTORids and library card access

Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion. One-Volume Edition: The Lectures of 1827. Translated by Peter C. Hodgson. University of California Press, 2006. **(pp. 75-110) [35 pages] (552 pages)**
Electronic access available through UofT catalogue to eBook version for students with UTORids and library card access
>> Also available in physical copy at UofT libraries including St. Michael's

Elements of the Philosophy of Right. Edited by Allen Wood. Cambridge University Press, 1991.
(§§257-270 [pp. 275-304]) [29 pages] (514 pages)
Physical copy available at ICS Library and other UofT libraries

Philosophy of Mind. Translated by W. Wallace and A. V. Miller, revised by Michael Inwood. Oxford University Press, 2007. **(§§513-577 [pp. 228-277]) [49 pages] (680 pages)**
Physical copies available through UofT library system at Pratt and Kelly Library (St Michael's College)

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Introduction to the Philosophy of History. Translated by Leo Rauch. Hackett Publishing Company, 1988.
(Full text to be acquired) – Purchase on Amazon, ebook via Google Books

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Course Schedule

**Adjustments to this schedule—both in terms of readings and meeting dates/times—will be discussed in advance and decided on collectively.*

May 7 Objective and Absolute Spirit *Aesthetics*, Vol. 1, pp. 91-105	**July 6—Class to be rescheduled** Absolute Spirit *Philosophy of Mind* §§553-577
July 11 Religion *Phenomenology of Spirit* §§672-684; *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Introduction	**July 13** Religion *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Part I: The Concept of Religion
July 18 Religion of Nature *Phenomenology of Spirit* §§685-698; *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Part II: A (selections) **July 25** Revealed Religion *Phenomenology of Spirit* §§748-787; *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Part III (selections) **August 1** Romantic Art *Aesthetics*, Vol. 1, pp. 517-551: "The Religious Domain of Romantic Art" **August 8**	**July 20** Religion of Art *Phenomenology of Spirit* §§699-747; *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Part II: B (selections) **July 27—Class to be rescheduled** Revealed Religion *Phenomenology of Spirit* §§748-787; *Lectures on the Philosophy of Religion*, Part III (selections) **August 3** Ethical Life and the State *Philosophy of Mind* §§513-552

August 10	
The State and Religion *Philosophy of Right* §§257-270	Conclusion