The writings of Kant and Hegel are commonly given short shrift in comparison with the remainder of their works, albeit for different reasons. Kant’s political philosophy seems to be at odds with his moral philosophy, which, on the face of it, should supersede our obligations to the state. (It does not.) Given the predominance of Kant’s moral philosophy, there is, therefore, a tendency to see the political philosophy as superfluous (at best). Alternatively, there are those who claim that Kant underwrites our obligations to the state with a rather uninteresting variation on social contractarianism (he does not), which, once again, seems to auger in favor of seeing his political philosophy as superfluous.

Although The Philosophy of Right is seen as an important political work by the so-called Right Hegelians, others often see it as the work of an exhausted philosopher. Instead of exhibiting the radicality of his earlier works, with their emphasis on the imperatives of reason in history (which would facilitate a genuine form of social reconciliation), The Philosophy of Right seems to cash out in favor of a rather contrived reconciliation that would justify our obligations to the State in general (perhaps), and, what’s worse, to the reactionary Prussian State (circa 1820) in particular (much less likely, although nominally so).

In this course, we shall consider anew the political writings of these two powerful philosophers, who, with their different conceptions of the relationship between freedom and the individual, largely delineate the framework within which much of contemporary political debate takes place.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings*, Cambridge University Press

Additional Readings will be on Electronic Reserve

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

**Attendance, Punctuality, and Discussion:** You are expected to attend class and to arrive on time. Starting with your fourth absence, your final grade will be reduced by one grade increment for each absence. In addition, you are expected to participate in class discussion, which means that, in terms of your final grade, student participation is worth one grade increment.

**Evaluation:** Your evaluation for the course will be based on two exams, each of which is worth 30% of your grade, and one paper, which is worth 40% of your grade. The exams are scheduled for October 11 and December 6, and the paper is due on December 11. However, I reserve the right to reschedule the first exam if we do not move through the course materials at a speed that conforms to the schedule. Each test will be comprised of three multi-part essay questions. Your papers must be 2500-3000 words. You must discuss your paper topic with me beforehand.
Graduate Students: In addition to taking the two exams that will be administered to undergraduate students, graduate students must produce a 12-15 page paper, will make one class presentation, and will meet with me on three occasions during the semester to address, in a more sophisticated fashion, the materials that have been covered during class.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. UM assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (“DSS”). “Reasonable” means that UM permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Class: Readings:

KANT

Aug 28: Administrative Matters/Background

Aug 30: Relevant Aspects of Kant’s Moral and Theoretical Philosophy
*From CPR: The Canon of Pure Reason (The Highest Good) (E-Res)
*From CPrR: The Dialectic of Pure Practical Reason (E-Res)

Sept 4: The Virtues
*Preface and Introduction to the Metaphysics of Morals (MM 3-22)
*Introduction to the Doctrine of Virtue (MM 145-170)

Sept 6: *Doctrine of the Elements of Ethics (MM 173-218)

Sept 11: Teleology, History, and External Freedom
*Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose (PW 41-53)
*Conjectures on the Beginning of Human History (PW 221-234)

Sept 13: *Theory and Practice (International Right)(PW 87-92)
*Perpetual Peace (On the Guarantee of Perpetual Peace) (PW 108-114)
*From CJ: Sections 75 and 82-84 (E-Res)

Sept 18: *Introduction to the Doctrine of Right (MM 23-28)
*Division of the Doctrine of Right (MM 29-34)

Sept 20: Private Right, Property, and Public Right
*MM: Sections 1-17 (37-56) and 41-42 (84-86)

Sept 25: Rights in Oneself, Public Right, and Internationalism
*MM: Sections 43-44 (89-90), 53-62 (114-122) and Conclusion (123-124)

Sept 27: *Perpetual Peace (PW 93-108)
*Theory and Practice (Political Right: Against Hobbes) (PW 73-79)

*MM: Sections 45-47 (90-93), 49, General Remark A (95-98), 52 (111-113), and Doctrine of Right, Appendix/Conclusion (136-138)

Oct 4: *Theory and Practice (Political Right: Conclusion) (PW 79-87)
Oct 9:  *An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment (PW 54-60)  
*Perpetual Peace (PW 114-15 and 125-130)

Oct 11:  **FIRST EXAM (KANT)**

**HEGEL**

Oct 16:  **Hegel’s Speculative Philosophy**  
*EPR: Preface (9-23) and Introduction: Sec. 1-7 (25-42)

Oct 18:  *EPR: Introduction: Sec. 8-33 (42-64)

Oct 23:  **Abstract Right**  
*EPR: The Person: Sec. 34-40 (67-72) and Property: Sec. 41-71 (73-103)

Oct 25:  *EPR: Contract: Sec. 72-81 (104-114)  
*EPR: Wrong: Sec. 82-104 (115-132)

Oct 30:  **Morality**  
*EPR: Subject and Purpose & Responsibility: Sec. 105-118 (135-146)

Nov 1:  *EPR: Intention and Welfare: Sec. 119-128 (147-156)

**Nov 6:  **NO CLASS (ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY)**

Nov 8:  *EPR: The Good and the Conscience, Sec. 129-141 (157-186)

Nov 13:  **Ethical Life**  
*EPR: Introduction: Sec 142-157 (189-198) and The Family: Sec 158-181 (199-219)

Nov 15:  *EPR: Civil Society—Needs and Justice: Sec. 182-229 (220-259)

Nov 20:  *EPR: Civil Society—Police and the Corporation: Sec. 230-256 (259-274)

**Nov 22:  **NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)**

Nov. 27:  *EPR: The State—Constitutional Law: Sec. 257-297 (275-336)


Dec 4:  *EPR: The State—Int’l Law and World History: Sec. 330-360 (366-380)

**Dec 6:  **SECOND EXAM (HEGEL)**

Dec 11 (Tue): PAPER (5:00pm—LA 101, my mailbox)