

PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE IN KANT AND GERMAN IDEALISM

In this seminar, we will be studying Kant's philosophy of nature in his Critique of Teleological Judgment (part of his *Critique of the Power of Judgment*) and also his late views on this topic in the so called *Opus postumum*. This will help us approach the changes in philosophy of nature (*Naturphilosophie*) that were introduced by the German idealists (especially F.W.J. Schelling). While the philosophical issues in *Naturphilosophie* can be approached narrowly from the perspective of the philosophy of science and epistemology, our perspective in this seminar will be much broader. We will be studying *Naturphilosophie* in order to address the relation between theoretical and practical reason. Already in the third *Critique*, Kant raises the question of how we must represent nature in order to think of it as hospitable to the realization of our moral ends. While for Kant this representation of nature is regulative (nature is represented *as if* rational) relative to the needs of our cognitive faculties, for the German idealist (Schelling) this representation of nature is constitutive, i.e., nature *is* rational. For the German idealist, the assumption of a moral God who makes nature cooperative with our moral ends is redundant because the relation between theoretical and practical reason is no longer merely the one of coherency (as this was in Kant) but united and identical to each other. Some scholars argue that the German idealist views are already anticipated in Kant's *Opus postumum*. It will be our task in this seminar to determine whether they are right.

Instructor: Prof. Lara Ostaric (lostaric@temple.edu)

Required Texts:

I. Primary Literature

- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, ed. Paul Guyer, trans. Guyer/Matthews, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. (available through the bookstore)
- Immanuel Kant, *Opus postumum*, edited by Eckart Förster, translated by Eckart Förster and Michael Rosen, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993. (available on Canvas)
- W.J. Schelling, *Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988. (available on Canvas)

II. Secondary Literature (available on Canvas through 'Course Reserve')

I. Critique of Teleological Judgment

Ameriks, "End of the Critiques: Kant's Moral 'Creationism'," in *Kant's Elliptical Path*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 238-245.

Förster, Eckart, "The Significance of §§76, 77 Of the *Critique of Judgment* for the Development of Post-Kantian Philosophy (Part I), *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 30.2 (2009): 197-217.

Ginsborg Hannah, "Two Kinds of Mechanical Inexplicability in Kant and Aristotle," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 42.1, 2004.

Ginsborg, Hannah, *The Normativity of Nature: Essays on Kant's Critique of Judgment*. 15-31. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Guyer, "From Nature to Morality: Kant's New Argument in the 'Critique of Teleological Judgment'," *Kant's System of Nature and Freedom*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (e-book)

Wood, Allen, "The Physico-theological Proof," in *Kant's Rational Theology*, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1978.

II. Opus postumum

Förster, Eckart. 2002. *Kant's Final Synthesis: An Essay on the Opus postumum*, Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

Guyer, Paul. 2005a. "Kant's Ether Deduction and the Possibility of Experience," in *Kant's System of Nature and Freedom*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 74-85.

Guyer, Paul. 2005b. "Organisms and the Unity of Science," in *Kant's System of Nature and Freedom*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 86-111.

III. F.W.J. Schelling

Ostarcic, L. 2014. *Interpreting Schelling: Critical Essays*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Förster, Eckart. 2012. *The Twenty-five Years of Philosophy: A systematic Reconstruction*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Beiser, Frederick C. 2002. *German Idealism: The Struggle Against Subjectivism*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) one presentation 15%
- (2) summary of assigned readings (1 page) 20 %
- (3) paper proposal and outline (required but not graded)
- (4) term paper 55%: 1 longer paper, approx. 5000-6000 words long, with additional research of the secondary literature on your topic
- (5) participation 15% (regular class attendance, participation in class discussions, on time submission of reading responses and final paper topic)

Academic Integrity

It is expected that you comply with the rules of the academic honor code. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failing of this course and will be reported to the relevant academic authorities. Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. If you are not sure what counts as plagiarism, please ask or consult your student handbook.

Disability Statement

This course is open to all students who met the academic requirements for participation. Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Statement on Academic Freedom

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02

Schedule of Readings

I CRITIQUE OF TELEOLOGICAL JUDGMENT

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| Week 1 | 08/27 Introduction; §§ 61-66: Organism as a 'Natural End' |
| Week 2 | 09/03 §§67-74: 'External Purposiveness', The Antinomy of

Teleological Judgment, Kant's Critique of Dogmatic Systems of Nature

Ginsborg Hannah, "Two Kinds of Mechanical Inexplicability in Kant and Aristotle" |

- Week 3 09/10 §§75-78: The Solution to the Antinomy
- Förster, Eckart, "The Significance of §§76, 77 Of the Critique of Judgment for the Development of Post-Kantian Philosophy (Part I), Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal 30.2 (2009): 197-217.
- Week 4 09/17 Discussion and review
- Week 5 09/24 §§79-84: Human Being as the 'Ultimate' and 'the Final End of
- Paul Guyer, "From Nature to Morality: Kant's New Argument in the 'Critique of Teleological Judgment', " in: *Kant's System of Nature and Freedom*
- Week 6 10/01 §§85, 86 and the Remark: Physical and Ethical Theology
- Wood, "The Physicotheological Proof," in *Kant's Rational Theology*
- Week 7 10/08 §§87-90: the Moral Proof
- Ameriks, "End of the Critiques: Kant's Moral 'Creationism'," in *Kant's Elliptical Path*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 238-245.
- Week 8 10/15 §91 and "General Remark on the Teleology"
- Ameriks, "End of the Critiques: Kant's Moral 'Creationism'," in *Kant's Elliptical Path*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 246-259.
- II KANT'S *OPUS POSTUMUM***
- Week 9 10/22 Guyer, "Organisms and the Unity of Science," 3rd section and the relevant passages from *OP*
- Week 10 10/29 Förster, *Kant's Final Synthesis*, Ch. 1 and the relevant passages from *OP*
- Week 11 11/05 Förster, *Kant's Final Synthesis*, Ch. 4 and the relevant passages from *OP*
- III SCHELLING'S *NATURPHILOSOPHIE***
- Week 12 11/12 Beiser, "The Development of *Naturphilosophie*" and Beiser, "Problems, Methods, and Concepts of *Naturphilosophie*" Schelling, *Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature*, Introduction
- Week 13 11/19 Beiser, "Theory of Life and Matter"

Schelling, *First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature*, Outline
and Ch. 1

Week 14 11/26 FALL BREAK

Week 15 12/03 Paper Outline Workshop