

Phil 3122 19th Century Philosophy

Class Number 3882 Section MW12 M, W 12:50 – 2:05pm Room: TBA

Instructor: Angelica Nuzzo

Email: anuzzo@brooklyn.cuny.edu

The course offers an overview of 19th century philosophy focusing on the successive responses given to Kant's "Copernican revolution" on the one hand, and to Hegel's dialectical theory of spirit and history on the other. Our principal objective throughout the course will be to follow the different ways in which 19th century philosophers have been addressing issues concerning the power of reason and rationality, articulating the place of the human subject in the world of nature and history, and developing models of analysis and critique of social and political institutions. We will read selections from the following works: Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, Fichte's Vocation of Man, Hegel's Lectures on Absolute Spirit, Marx's writings on historical materialism, Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling, Nietzsche's On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life.

The format of the course includes lecture, class discussion, and student presentations. Emphasis will be placed on the careful reading, interpretation, and discussion of texts. The course will teach how to read and critically interpret philosophical texts as well as how to extend the discussion to touch upon contemporary philosophical issues and problems.