

Major Philosophers II, 460

Topic for the 2014 Winter Term: Philosophy, *Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit*

2 sessions per week, 90 minutes each (Tue. & Thu. 4:05-5:35)

Location: Lea 14

Prerequisite, 107-366 (German Idealism) or the equivalent

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Evaluation based on two papers (50% each); late papers without excuse will be penalized by ½ mark per lecture-day delay.

Description:

An in depth reading of the Introduction, the first four chapters, and chapters six and seven of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* (1807). I shall first give a brief historical account, according to most recent scholarship on the subject, of how the *Phenomenology* was produced. Against this historical background I shall raise the conceptual issue—which will be our primary concern—of the nature of the *Phenomenology* as a philosophical work. Is the *Phenomenology* a misguided attempt at *a priori* history? Is it psychology? philosophical myth? what? The most obvious answer is that the *Phenomenology* is Hegel's introduction to his science of logic. But then we must understand what Hegel means by 'reason', and why he must turn to a historical account of the development of 'rationality' in order to define its nature