

PHIL 452/652, EP&E 231
Recognition: Intersubjectivity in Moral and Political Philosophy
Fall 2011

Class Hours: Wednesdays 3:30 PM – 5:20 PM
Class Location: Bass Library L73
Course Website: On the ClassesV2 server

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CT Hall 306
Office Hours – Thursday 12:00 Noon – 2:00 pm (and by appt)

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Course Description:

This course explores a central issue in moral philosophy: the normative structure of the relationship between moral equals. Following a practice of post-Kantian German idealists, we call this relationship *recognition*. Recognition is the relationship manifested when two moral equals see and relate to each other as having the standing to make reciprocal moral claims on one another. While we explore questions about the psychological structure of this stance – is it cognitive or conative, for example – our main focus will be on the *moral* structure of the relationship between moral equals.

This course begins with a study of the emergence of philosophical attention to recognition, which occurred at the headwaters of early modern moral and political theory in sixteenth and seventeenth Centuries. Much of this philosophical work focused on property rights. We will likely read works by Francisco Suarez, Samuel Pufendorf, and Hugo Grotius, to name a few important figures. We will then turn to close examination of the role of recognition in the work of Adam Smith, Kant, and post-Kantian German idealists. Our primary focus will be on the works of Fichte and Hegel. We may briefly interrogate some nineteenth-century figures such as Marx and Nietzsche, who, in varying ways, are skeptics about recognition. The course then turns to contemporary readings, including the leading contemporary German philosopher, Axel Honneth, as well as recent work about the standpoint of reciprocal recognition—the “second-person standpoint”—in epistemology and in moral, legal, and political theory.

Readings (all books available at the Yale Bookstore):

Required books:

1. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Discourses and Other Early Political Writings* (V. Gourevitch, ed.)
2. Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Raphael and Macfie, eds.)
3. G. W. F. Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* (Allen Wood, ed.)
4. Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals & Ecce Homo* (Kaufmann, ed.)

5. Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint: Morality, Respect and Accountability*

Other Required Reading:

1. All required articles and selections will be posted to the ClassesV2 server

Recommended:

1. Frederick Neuhouser, *Rousseau's Theodicy of Self-Love: Evil, Rationality and the Drive for Recognition*

Course Requirements & Grades:

1. Reading responses papers (approximately 5 pages)
2. Final Paper (approximately 20 – 30 pages)

TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings marked with an asterix (*) are required, all others are recommended. All readings not in assigned books will be accessible from the website. Additional readings may be added to the syllabus as we proceed. Readings also may be removed from the syllabus as we proceed. We'll give you sufficient notice for all changes to the syllabus.

Week One (8/31): Introduction: Headwaters of Modern Moral Philosophy

Week Two (9/7): Headwaters, continued: On Right and Sociability

- *Francisco Suarez, *On the Law and God the Lawgiver*
- *Hugo Grotius, *The Rights of War and Peace*
- *Samuel Pufendorf, *On the Law of Nature and of Nations*
- *John Locke, *Second Treatise on Civil Government*, Chapters 1 – 4

Week Three (9/14): Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Discovering the Moral Self Through the Other

- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Basis of Inequality* (i.e., the Second Discourse)

Week Four (9/21): Rousseau, continued

- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Second Discourse*
- *Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 1

Week Five (9/28): Adam Smith and Thomas Reid

- *Thomas Reid, *Essays on the Active Powers of the Mind*
- *Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Parts I and II

Week Six (10/5): Immanuel Kant: Moral Equality

- * Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Chapters 1 & 2
- * Immanuel Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, Part 1

Week Seven (10/12): Johann Gottlieb Fichte: Creating the Self Through Recognition of the Other

- * *Foundations of Natural Right*, Introduction & §§1 – 4

Week Eight (10/19): G. W. F. Hegel:

- * G.W. F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*, §§166 – 230

Week Nine (10/26): G. W. F. Hegel

- * G.W. F. Hegel, *Philosophy of Right*, Abstract Right

Week Ten (11/2): Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre

- * Friedrich Nietzsche, *On The Genealogy of Morals*, Prologue, First & Second Essays
- * Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, Part Three, Chapter One, Sections 1, 2, & 4
- Franz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, selections
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, selections

Week Eleven (11/9): Charles Taylor & Axel Honneth

- * Charles Taylor, “Multiculturalism and The Politics of Recognition”

* Axel Honneth, "Integrity and Disrespect: Principles of a Conception of Morality Based on the Theory of Recognition"

Axel Honneth, *The Struggle for Recognition: The Moral Grammar of Social Conflicts*, selections

Week Twelve (11/16): Nancy Fraser & Elizabeth Anderson

* Nancy Fraser, "Recognition without Ethics?"

* Elizabeth Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?"

Nancy Fraser, "Recognition or Redistribution: A Critical Reading of Iris Young's *Justice and the Politics of Difference*"

Week Thirteen (11/30): Steve Darwall

* Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint*, selections

* Stephen Darwall, "Two Kinds of Recognition Respect for Persons"