

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: From Hegel to Marx

Course Number and Section

PHILOSOP

3048F 550

Instructor Name(s): Steve D'Arcy

Instructor Email(s): sdarcy@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

In this course we explore the intellectual tradition of "dialectical" critical philosophy, from GWF Hegel, through Ludwig Feuerbach, to Karl Marx. This tradition originated in Germany in the 19th century, inspired by Hegel's hope that philosophy could be a "science of freedom." In the two centuries since it emerged, however, it has expanded into a global tradition of critical social theory, having entered into dialogue with liberation movements and social-scientific research programs on every continent. Our emphasis will be on developing a clear understanding and a critical appreciation of Hegel's "objective idealism" and Marx's "historical materialism," supplemented with a brief look at Feuerbach's "humanistic" critique of religion, which played an important role in the "materialist" reception of Hegel in Germany.

The idea that critical thought, as it interacts with struggles against oppression and exploitation, can be a force for human self-liberation will be the central theme of the course.

Although the readings in the early part of the course are difficult to understand, students willing to make the effort will be guided toward a confident command of all the course readings.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

By the end of this course, students should be able to grasp, intelligently discuss, and persuasively write about many of the most important concepts, arguments, and theories of Hegelian and Marxist thought.

By the end of the course, students should be able to confidently and competently apply Hegel's "dialectical" model of learning processes and Marx's "dialectical" model of social conflict to understand and engage with the dynamics of intellectual and social development.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Electronic versions of the readings will be accessible at no cost as links on the course Brightspace page:

GWF Hegel, "The Phenomenology of Spirit."

Ludwig Feurbach, [selection from] "The Essence of Christianity."

Karl Marx, [selections from] "The Marx-Engels Reader," 2nd edition, ed. R.C. Tucker.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Midterm Test		20%
Essay		30%
Exam		40%
Attendance & Participation		10%

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.