PHRA-4376 Hegel’s Aesthetics
Anselm Ramelow, O.P.
Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology
Spring 2012
TH 12:40pm-03:30pm
DSPT 1
3 units

Office Hours:
Monday, 1-3 p.m., or by appointment
I can be reached under (415) 567 7824 (St. Dominic’s Parish, ask for Fr. Anselm) or aramelow@dsppt.edu; I am also available after class.

Course description:
Hegel's Lectures on Aesthetics, a key text in the history of aesthetics, is not only a stimulating work of philosophy, but was in many ways the beginning of modern art history. We will read it in its relation to German Romanticism, Kant's aesthetics and other theories, as appropriate. We will also confront it, as far as possible, with the actual works of art that it discusses. However, this is an attempt to explore a rather lengthy text; reading and understanding will therefore occupy most of the class. Fortunately, this is one of the less difficult texts of Hegel, yet it is rich in detail and in profound insights, many of them completely new in the history of thought. Following his speculative analysis of history and based on examples suggested by his texts, we will discuss the validity of his insights, comparing them with later theories, including the thesis of the “end of art.”
The class should be of interest for students of philosophical and religious aesthetics as well as those wanting to explore Hegel’s work as such.

Seminar. Class presentations and 15-20 page research paper.
Intended audience: MA/MTS, PhD/ThD [Auditors excluded]

The format of the class is a seminar; attendance and participation in the discussion is therefore important. Students need to be prepared to read larger pieces of text in preparation for each session.
As an outcome, the student will have gained an acquaintance of Hegel’s aesthetical theory in relation to other theories and the material works of art it discusses. The student will be able to assess critically Hegel’s arguments and observations.

The student will demonstrate this knowledge through
   a) Class participation and contribution to the discussions.
   b) Taking turns in preparing texts that are to be discussed in class.
   c) a 15-20pp research paper (75%)

Students will take turns in the class preparation: this preparation should articulate the argument of the text in a brief and concise manner, so as to give the participants a starting point for discussion. It should make the text’s logic as clear as possible and might offer some reflection questions for discussion or a critical response to Hegel’s suggestions. It is always helpful to use handouts. Where possible, it would be good to have reproductions/examples of the art that Hegel
discusses (obviously, lengthy literary texts or music will not be possible). We will have reproduction facilities available.

The research paper is subject to approval and will ideally consist in a critical discussion of Hegel’s thought, either with regard to any art or art form, or in relation to another theory of philosophical aesthetics.

For this purpose, I ask you to give me a paper proposal by TH 4/12. This proposal should consist of a short paragraph, describing the topic of your choice (it might be good to talk to me about it sometime beforehand), and a bibliography. The bibliography is most important. Please make your bibliography as specific as possible. Rather than general handbooks, I would like to see at least three pertinent journal articles. As one possible research tool I recommend the “philosopher’s index” that is available on the GTU library website (although this will probably suffice only as a starting point). The recommended book by Maker (see below) is also a good starting point. It is not required – but a good practice – to write an outline as well.

The deadline for the paper is TH 5/17. Out of fairness to other students who submit their work on time, missed deadlines will result in a lower grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance and participation will impact the grade.

Bibliography:
required:
  Price: $71.24 (Paperback: 640 pages)
  Price: $52.62 (Paperback: 696 pages)
  Price: $29.95 (Pbk; 218 pages)
  (You can also get the 1962 version; this is an identical reprint.)

recommended reading:
- The entry of the *Stanford Encyclopedia* on Hegel’s aesthetics is helpful; it also contains an updated bibliography: [http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel-aesthetics](http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hegel-aesthetics)
Syllabus
The syllabus is subject to revision.

TH 2/2  Introduction
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 1-90
suggested:
    Kaminsky: p. 3-28
    (This is not directly on Hegel’s aesthetics
     and might be hard to understand without background.)

TH 2/9  The Idea of Beauty
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 90-173
    Kaminsky: p. 29-41 (ch. II)

TH 2/16 The Ideal
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 174-279

TH 2/23 The Artist (genius, inspiration, style)
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 280-298
    The History of Art:
    Symbolic Form I
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 299-377
    Kaminsky: p. 42-64 (ch. III)

TH 3/1  Symbolic Form II
The Classical Form I
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 377-426 and 427-442
    Kaminsky: p. 65-84 (ch. IV)

TH 3/8  The Classical Form II
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 443-516

TH 3/15 The Romantic Form I
read:
    Hegel, Lectures vol. I, p. 517-611
    Kaminsky: p. 85-103 (ch. V)
TH 3/22 The Forms of Art
Architecture
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 613-700

TH 3/29 Reading Week

TH 4/5 Holy Thursday [can we move this class?]

TH 4/12 Sculpture
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 701-791
paper proposals due

TH 4/19 Painting
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 792-887
Kaminsky: p. 104-117 (ch. VI)

TH 4/26 Music
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 888-958
Kaminsky: p. 118-130 (ch. VII)

TH 5/3 Poetry I
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 959-1034
Kaminsky: p. 131-166 (ch. VIII)

TH 5/10 Poetry II
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 1035-1157

TH 5/17 exam week (we will have class!)
Poetry III
read:
Hegel, Lectures vol. II, p. 1158-1237
Kaminsky: p. 167-178 (ch. IX)
evaluations