

**Revolutions in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Thought**  
**RGT 2726HS Winter 2019**  
**Dr. Sean Mulrooney**

Course Description

The 19th century was a time of great political and intellectual ferment in Europe. It was also the century in which Europeans came to develop a keen sense of historical consciousness. Come find out how Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Darwin, Nietzsche and Freud forever changed the way we look at the world. Themes to be considered include logic, time, human nature, morality, religion and God.

We will consider each thinker's ideas both in their historical context and in light of their implications for contemporary culture and for our own thinking.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to describe how each thinker changed the course of Western philosophy; in particular students should be able to

1. Describe and evaluate Kierkegaard's argument that the subjective approach to God is more valuable than the objective approach.
2. Describe and evaluate Darwin's argument that species evolve through natural selection rather than being separately created by God.
3. Describe and evaluate some significant philosophical and scientific challenges to the Christian faith posed by Marx, Nietzsche and Freud.
4. Apply philosophical insights to contemporary culture and to their own thinking.

Schedule of Topics

Weeks 1 & 2: Instructor's Introduction and Georg Hegel (1770-1831)

Weeks 3 & 4: Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)

Weeks 5 & 6: Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Weeks 7 & 8: Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

Weeks 9 & 10: Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

Weeks 11 & 12: Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) and Concluding Remarks

Course Readings

The instructor will prepare a course reader with selections from:

Hegel: *Phenomenology of Spirit*, *Encyclopedia* and *Lectures on History of Philosophy*

Kierkegaard: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* and *Fear and Trembling*

Marx: *Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* and *The Communist Manifesto*

Darwin: *The Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man*

Nietzsche: *On the Genealogy of Morals* and *The Gay Science*

Freud: *5 Lectures on Psychoanalysis* and *The Future of an Illusion*

### Evaluation

- Class participation 25%
- 2 3-page exegetical assignments 2 x 12.5% = 25%
- 8-10 page essay either (i) comparing 2 authors or (ii) applying their insights to your own life or (iii) applying their insights to contemporary culture 25%
- Final exam 25%