



UNSW
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**Arts and
Social Sciences**

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & LANGUAGES

ARTS3368/PHIL5008

Advanced Social and Political Philosophy

SEMESTER 2, 2013

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COURSE STAFF

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Consultation Times: Thursday 13-14 or by appointment

COURSE DETAILS

Most people have some idea of how hard life can be without adequate 'recognition' from others whose views one cares about. This intuitively important phenomenon is also one of the most intensively discussed themes in contemporary social and political philosophy. Recognition is said to be a "vital human need", something that individuals require to develop and maintain adequate psychological resources for flourishing individual life, and something that ethnic and other minority groups struggle for in the political arena. But what exactly is recognition, and in which exact ways is it important for personal and collective identity, for human subjectivity, and for social integration? In this course we will focus on the concept and theories of recognition, starting from the pioneers Fichte and Hegel at the beginning of the 19th century, and working our way to contemporary thinkers. We will study and discuss a number of key texts on recognition and subthemes related to this concept, such as freedom, autonomy, subjectivity, personhood, personal identity, alienation, reification, social inclusion and domination. Units of Credit: 6.

Class time

Thursdays, 4-7pm, Morven Brown G3

COURSE AIMS

- Provide a broad introduction to theories and discourses of recognition in social and political philosophy
- Encourage in-depth reflection on philosophical problems concerning recognition, human subjectivity, personhood, and other related themes
- Provide an advanced avenue for developing the skills and reasoning abilities associated with the discipline of philosophy as a precursor to more independent study in the discipline
- Provide opportunities for developing the skills necessary for scholarly inquiry, including written and oral communication skills, information literacy and research skills, and critical, reflective and analytic skills

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1. Identify central themes and questions in the recognition-theoretical approach to social and political reality
- 2. Apply critical and conceptually sophisticated thinking to classical and contemporary texts on recognition

- 3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the importance of recognition for human life
- 4. Display skills associated with scholarly inquiry in social and political philosophy, such as information literacy, critical analysis, argument and written expression

LEARNING AND TEACHING RATIONALE

The course is structured around weekly readings and seminar discussions on the readings. Preparation by reading the set texts is crucial for successful participation in the course. The seminar will often involve some introductory lecturing by me. Other than that, we will work as a philosophical seminar in which the main goal is to clarify collectively what is unclear in the texts and to discuss critically the claims made and the conceptual tools developed in them. The point of reading a philosophical text is always learning to discern and to think about some aspects of reality more clearly. This is also our goal in the course: to learn to understand and think clearly about the phenomena that these texts discuss, with the conceptual means either developed or introduced by the respective author in the text, or developed by ourselves as we reconstruct what the authors are trying to formulate. It is important that you participate in this process actively, by presenting questions, and trying to think of answers to the questions posed. As always in philosophy, we are not interested in opinions without reasons, but in good reasons for answering particular questions in this or that way.

That said, it is part of the logic of invention that a good idea often presents itself before it is clear what reasons exactly there are for accepting or rejecting it. This means that we need to allow each other also the freedom to present ideas that are not fully formed, and to do our best to think and discuss together what might speak for or against them and to develop them further. Simply refuting an idea is often easier but also less valuable than elaborating on it. In the seminar-discussions we will hence apply interpretative generosity to each other's ideas, trying to make the best of them and thereby advance collectively our understanding of the themes dealt in the texts.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The course will run as a three-hourly seminar each week.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Topic	Date/s	Reading
Week 1	Introduction to the theme of the seminar	1/8	'Social and Political Recognition', in <i>The Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy</i> , available online: www.ie.utm.edu/recog_sp/
Week 2	Fichte: Recognition and the 'summons' to freedom	8/8	-J.G.Fichte: <i>Foundations of Natural Right</i> , Cambridge University Press, 2000, pp. 18-52 (§§1-4).
Week 3	Hegel: Recognition and the cultivation of human subjectivity	15/8	G.W.F. Hegel, <i>Hegel's Philosophy of Subjective Spirit, Volume 3 Phenomenology and Psychology</i> , D. Reidel, edited by M.J. Petry, 1979, pp. 37-78 (chapter 'Self-consciousness').
			Karl Marx, 'Comments on James Mill'. In

Week 4	Marx: Alienation, species-being and recognition	22/8	Marx, Karl & Engels, Friedrich, <i>Collected Works, Volume 3: Marx and Engels 1843-1844</i> , Progress Publishers, 1975, pp. 211-228
Week 5	Alexandre Kojève: Recognition and the end of history	29/8	Alexandre Kojève, <i>Introduction to the Reading of Hegel</i> , ed. Allen Bloom, Cornell University Press, 1980, pp. 31-70 (section 'Summary of the first six chapters of the Phenomenology of Spirit').
Week 6	Charles Taylor: Recognition and multiculturalism	5/9	Taylor, Charles, 'The politics of recognition', in Guttman, Amy (ed.), <i>Multiculturalism – Examining the Politics of Recognition</i> , Princeton University Press, 1994, pp. 25-73.
Week 7	Nancy Fraser: Redistribution, recognition and inclusion in social life	12/9	Fraser, Nancy, 'Rethinking recognition', <i>New Left Review</i> , 3, May/June 2000, 107-120. & Fraser, Nancy, 'Recognition without ethics?', <i>Theory, Culture & Society</i> , Vol. 18(2-2), 2001, 21-42.
Week 8	Jessica Benjamin: Recognition, psychoanalysis and gender	19/9	Benjamin, Jessica, <i>Bonds of Love</i> , Pantheon, 1988, pp. 51-84 (second chapter).
Week 9	Axel Honneth: Recognition, self-relations and the 'formal concept of the good life'	26/9	Honneth, Axel, <i>The Struggle for Recognition</i> , MIT Press, 1996, pp. 92-131.
Week 10	Honneth: Recognition versus reification 1	10/10	Honneth, Axel, <i>Reification – A New Look at an Old Idea</i> , Oxford University Press, 2008, 17-52.
Week 11	Honneth: Recognition versus reification 2	17/10	Honneth, Axel, <i>Reification – A New Look at an Old Idea</i> , Oxford University Press, 2008, 52-94.
Week 12	Recognition and domination	24/10	Emmanuel Renault: 'Does domination presuppose recognition? Hegel and La Boetie, Marx and Bourdieu', article-manuscript.
Week 13	No seminar in week 13		

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Student evaluative feedback on this course is welcomed and is gathered periodically, using among other means UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based in part on such feedback. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.

REFERENCES

The weekly readings are collected in the ARTS3368 Course Reader available at the UNSW bookshop, except for Honneth, *Reification – A New Look at an Old Idea* (Oxford University Press, 2008), which is

available separately at the bookshop and the library. Voluntary secondary reading material will be uploaded on Moodle or will be available at the library. These secondary readings include the following:

Week 1

-Ikäheimo, Heikki & Laitinen, Arto: 'Analyzing recognition – Identification, acknowledgement and recognitive attitudes between persons', in van den Brink & Owen: *Recognition and Power*, Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. 33-56.

Week 2

-Nomer, Nedim, 'Fichte and the Relationship between Self-Positing and Rights', *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, vol. 48, no. 4 (2010), 469-90.

-Ikäheimo, Heikki, 'Fichte on summoning and recognition', chapter 2 of a book-manuscript.

Week 3

-William, Robert R., *Hegel's Ethics of Recognition*, University of California Press, 1997, pp. 69-92.

-Ikäheimo, Heikki, 'Hegel on recognition?', chapter 3 of a book-manuscript.

Week 4

-Quante, Michael, 'Recognition as the social grammar of species being in Marx', in Ikäheimo, Heikki & Laitinen, Arto (eds.), *Recognition and Social Ontology*, Brill, 2011, pp. 239-267.

-Brudney, Daniel, 'Producing for others', in Schmidt am Busch, Hans-Christoph & Zurn, Christopher (eds.), *The Philosophy of Recognition*, Lexington Books, pp. 151-188.

Week 5

-Hegel, G.W.F., *Phenomenology of Spirit*, 'Self-sufficiency and non-self-sufficiency of self-consciousness: mastery and servitude', translated by Terry Pinkard, pp. 161-173. Available in the internet at <http://terrypinkard.weebly.com/phenomenology-of-spirit-page.html>

-Butler, Judith, *Subjects of Desire*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1987, pp. 63-79.

-Williams, Robert R., *Hegel's Ethics of Recognition*, University of California Press, 1997, pp. 366-371.

Week 6

- 'Identity politics', *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/identity-politics/>

- Ikäheimo, Heikki, 'Recognition in contemporary political philosophy: Charles Taylor and Nancy Fraser', first part of chapter 4 of book-manuscript.

Week 7

-Fraser, Nancy, *Social justice in the age of identity politics*, Tanner-lecture, available online: <http://www.intelligenceispower.com/Important%20E-mails%20Sent%20attachments/Social%20Justice%20in%20the%20Age%20of%20Identity%20Politics.pdf>

- Ikäheimo, Heikki, 'Recognition in contemporary political philosophy: Charles Taylor and Nancy Fraser', second part of chapter 4 of book-manuscript.

Week 8

-Butler, Judith, *Undoing Gender*, Routledge, 2004, pp. 131-151 (chapter 'Longing for recognition').

-Wildt, Andreas. 'Recognition' in psychoanalysis', in Schmidt am Busch, Hans-Christoph & Zurn, Christopher (eds.), *The Philosophy of Recognition*, Lexington Books, pp. 189-210.

Week 9

-Petherbridge, Danielle (ed.), *Axel Honneth – Critical Essays*, Brill, 2011. Especially Introduction and the first three essays by Anderson, Deranty and Meehan, and the corresponding parts of Honneth's Rejoinder in pp. 391-421. Accessible online at UNSW library website.

-Deranty, Jean-Philippe, *Beyond Communication – A Critical Study of Axel Honneth's Social Philosophy*, Brill, 2009. Accessible online at UNSW library website.

-Ikäheimo, Heikki, 'Axel Honneth and the recognition-paradigm', Chapter 5 of book-manuscript.

Week 10

-Pitkin, Hanna Fenichel, 'Rethinking reification', *Theory and Society*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Mar., 1987), 263-293.

Week 11

-The critical essays commenting Honneth by Judith Butler, Raymond Geuss and Jonathan Lear, in *Honneth, Axel, Reification – A New Look at an Old Idea*, Oxford University Press, 2008, 97-146, and Honneth's reply, *ibid.*, 147-160.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment tasks for this seminar are:

1. Reading summary of at least 150 words of the text for each week. Bring to the class where the text in question will be discussed. Describe the main theme or themes of the text, and mention one or more especially notable ideas, arguments or philosophical problems in it, and/or one or more problems that the text poses for the reader. (The texts by Fichte and Hegel are very difficult on a first reading, but the rest will be much easier.)

2. 2000 word essay. Questions will be distributed in Week 4. Due date is on week 8.

3. 2500 word essay. Questions will be distributed in Week 9. Due date is on week 13.

4. Active participation in class discussion. You will not be assigned a mark on your class participation. But the quality of your involvement in class discussion throughout the session could be relevant if you are otherwise on a borderline mark.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Learning outcomes assessed	Due date
Reading summary	150	15	Preparation for class.	Bring to each class, starting in week 2.
Essay 1	2000	40	1, 2, 3 & 4	16/9
Essay 2	2500	45	1, 2, 3 & 4	28/10

Assignment Submission

- The cut off time for all assignment submissions in the School is **4pm** of the stated due date.
- 2 assignment copies must be submitted for every assessment task - 1 paper copy and 1 electronic copy.

- All hard/paper copy assessments should be posted into the Assignment Drop Boxes outside the front counter of the School of Humanities and Languages on level 2, Morven Brown Building by 4pm on the due date.
- A completed cover sheet must be securely attached to assignments. The School is not responsible for any missing pages from poorly bound or stapled assignments.
- In addition, a soft copy must be sent through **Moodle** on Turnitin by 4pm on the due date
- a soft copy must be sent by 4pm on the due date by email to assessment@unsw.edu.au. All emailed assessments sent to assessment@unsw.edu.au will receive an electronic acknowledgement.

Assignment Collection

Assignments should be collected from your lecturer/tutor and must be collected by the owner/author of the assignment. A Stamped Self Addressed Envelope must be provided on submission if students require their assignment to be posted back to their home address.

Assignment Extensions

A student may apply to the Lecturer/Tutor for an extension to the submission date of an assignment. Requests for extension must be made via myUNSW before the submission due date, and must demonstrate exceptional circumstances, which warrant the granting of an extension. If medical grounds preclude submission of assignment by due date, contact should be made with subject coordinator as soon as possible. A medical certificate will be required for late submission and must be appropriate for the extension period. To apply for an extension please log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration

Late Submission of Assignments

Unless an extension has been granted, assignments submitted after the due or extended date will incur a 3% per day (excluding weekends) penalty of the maximum marks available for that assignment. Assignments received more than 10 calendar days after the due or extended date will not be allocated a mark.

ATTENDANCE

To successfully complete this unit you are required to attend minimum 80% of classes. If this requirement is not met you will fail the unit. The Lecturer will keep attendance records.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Students seeking information on plagiarism should visit the following web site:
<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html>

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Any OHS concerns should be raised with your immediate supervisor, the School's OHS representative, or the Head of School. The OHS guidelines are available at: http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/ohs_policies/index.html

STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of the course. Alternatively, the Student Equity and Diversity Unit can be contacted on 9385 4734. Further information is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

GRIEVANCES

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should in the first instance attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors. If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at: <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION

myUNSW is the single online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing & current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au>

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>