

# Hegel: The Science of Logic

PHIL 107 – Winter 2025

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am-10:50am

Solis Hall, Room 109

## INSTRUCTOR

Professor:

Clinton Tolley

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays 1:00-2:30pm

(sign-up on Canvas)

## CANVAS SITE

<https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/63206>

## TEXTBOOKS (AVAILABLE AT PRICE CENTER)

*required:*

Hegel, Georg. *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Basic Outline: Science of Logic*, ed., transl. Brinkmann and Dahlstrom (Cambridge, 2010)

Hegel, Georg. *The Science of Logic*, ed., transl. Giovanni (Cambridge, 2010)

*recommended:*

Hegel, Georg. *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, ed., transl. Pinkard (Cambridge, 2018)

*note:* all three books are also available electronically via Cambridge Core, links on Canvas (UCSD campus/VPN access required)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on a central component of the philosophy of Georg Hegel (1770-1831) – namely, what he calls the ‘science of logic’ – and will thereby serve to introduce Hegel’s philosophy more broadly. Hegel’s conception of logic is fundamental both to his own ‘idealist’ system of philosophy and also to his criticisms of previous attempts at systems of philosophy. It has also been incredibly influential within the later history of modern philosophy in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including within Marxism (not least via Marx himself), existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sartre, Beauvoir), pragmatism (Peirce, Dewey, Brandom), critical theory (Adorno, Horkheimer, Zizek), and more recently within ‘analytic’ philosophy (Priest, Redding), to name just a few of its legacies.

## BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO HEGEL’S ‘LOGICS’

Hegel published two works entitled ‘Science of Logic’: a larger two-volume version he first published in 1812-16, and a shorter version he published as the first part of his *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences* in 1817, with both versions being (separately) revised and expanded toward the end of his life (1827-31). Hegel’s own conception of the central importance of logic for his system of philosophy is announced already in the self-advertisement that Hegel drew up in 1807 on the occasion of the publication of his first and perhaps most well-known book, *The Phenomenology of Spirit*. In this self-advertisement, Hegel announced a ‘second’ volume which would contain the next contribution to his ‘system of science’, with the *Phenomenology* itself being said to serve as the ‘introduction’ to this system. This

second volume is promised to contain, first, a ‘Logic as speculative philosophy’, and then to be followed by ‘the two other parts of philosophy’, which Hegel there identifies as the ‘sciences of nature and of spirit’.

And sure enough, Hegel’s 1817 *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences* begins with the *Science of Logic* and is followed by the *Philosophy of Nature* and the *Philosophy of Spirit*. In the intervening decade, however, Hegel wrote out and published a much larger *Science of Logic*, in which he gives a much fuller treatment of the material that he covers much more briefly in the *Encyclopedia* version (which itself was kept shorter by design, as the *Encyclopedia* itself was to be used as a guide to Hegel’s lectures at the University of Heidelberg).

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout the quarter we will read through and discuss most of the shorter *Encyclopedia Logic* (‘EL’), and accompany this with selections from the larger *Science of Logic* (‘SL’). Beyond reading and discussing these works, other main goals for the course include:

- to understand what Hegel means by ‘logic’, and how this relates to other meanings that have been given to the term within the history of philosophy (including in the present day);
- to understand the role of the science of logic within Hegel’s own ‘system’ of philosophy, including its relationship to his earlier *Phenomenology of Spirit*, and also to the other two ‘philosophical sciences’ that follow the Logic within Hegel’s *Encyclopedia*;
- to discern what Hegel means by the terms ‘dialectical’ and ‘speculative’, which he uses to characterize the method by which the science of logic moves forward;
- to use Hegel’s writings on logic to gain an introduction to Hegel’s distinctive form of (‘absolute’) ‘idealism’, and also to how it compares with other forms of (platonian, skeptical, transcendental, etc) idealism within the history of philosophy;
- to come to an appreciation of Hegel’s criticisms of his contemporaries and his predecessors, especially concerning their views on logic, but also their understanding of the relation between logic, epistemology, and metaphysics;
- to each formulate our own judgment as to what is most of value of Hegel’s writings on logic, and also what might be problematic about them;
- to gain first-hand experience in what it’s like to do philosophy by thinking along with one of the more influential authors in the ‘modern’ history of philosophy;
- to write out and share our thoughts (comments, questions, concerns, etc) with each other along the way

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### 1. *Weekly questionnaires* (40%)

On Monday of each week, there will be a questionnaire posted on the course's Canvas page (under 'Quizzes'), to be completed on Canvas by the **end of Friday** (midnight) of the same week. The form of these questions will be multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank. The topics of the questions will be drawn from both the assigned readings and the lectures from the current week, and answering them will be a straightforward affair for anyone who attends lectures and completes all the readings.

\* Extra credit: During finals week there will be an optional extra-credit questionnaire, due Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 5pm.

### 2. *Weekly online commentary posts* (10%) & *comments* (5%)

(A) Posts (10%): By **end of Thursday** (midnight) of each week, you will need to contribute a 200-word post to our Canvas discussion forum. Your post should include:

- (1) page- and/or section-number references to a 1-2 page stretch of our readings that is most of interest to you;
- (2) a quote of one sentence (or two) of particular interest to you from this stretch of text,
- (3) an explanation in your own words of the main idea of the sentence, and how you think it fits into the particular stretch of text, and the reading more generally,
- (4) some of your thoughts and opinions about the subject-matter in question, and
- (5) at least one question about the sentence you've chosen.

(B) Comments (5%): Before the **end of Friday** (midnight), you will also need to post one 100-word (minimum) comment on someone else's post.

\* Extra credit: Each week you can earn another 0.25% toward your grade by responding a second time to posts and comments made by others (50-word minimum; once per week; up to an additional 2.5%).

### 3. *Weekly in-class worksheets* (10%)

Each week during one of the meetings there will be one short closed-book hand-written assignment distributed, completed, and discussed 'in class'; you must be present to complete this assignment.

### 4. *Two medium-length essays* (30%)

By end of Friday of Week 5 (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, midnight), and then again by the end of our scheduled final exam period (Tues March 18<sup>th</sup>, 11am), you will be required to turn in a 1000-word essay in which you critically and argumentatively engage with Hegel's treatment of a topic of your choosing. Each essay should include both a presentation of Hegel's own views of this topic, as well as your thoughts about Hegel's views, and then also your own thoughts about the topic itself. Your essays will be submitted electronically via Canvas / Turnitin.com (see note C below). The word-count for your essay should be placed at the end. (More information will be circulated during Weeks 5 and 10.)

### 5. *Two office hours 'check-in' meetings* (2 x 2.5% = 5%)

Each student is required to have two five-minute meetings with me during the term, once during the first half (weeks 1-5), a second during the second half (weeks 6-10). The canonical scheduling time for these meetings will be during my weekly office hours; if none of my office hour slots work with your schedule, please be in touch (sooner than later!) to make alternate arrangement for your meeting(s).

\*\*\*NOTE: participating in **at least one** of the one-on-one meetings is **required in order to pass** the class.\*\*\*

## NOTES ABOUT REQUIREMENTS

A. No extensions will be granted for any assignment or exam, except in cases of genuine emergency (e.g., earthquake, flood, fire, death in the family, illness certified by a doctor). No extensions can be granted for the weekly questionnaires *at all*, due to the distribution of the correct answers shortly after the due date.

B. The UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship must be observed in this course. This includes observance of the following six principles:

As a student,

1. I will not receive or provide unauthorized assistance in examinations.
2. I will not use unauthorized materials during an examination.
3. I will not use materials from sources without proper quotation, acknowledgement or citations.
4. I will not alter examinations, essays, or other assignments for regrading.
5. I will not fabricate data or references.
6. I will not use false excuses to obtain extensions of time for examinations or writing assignments.

C. Maintaining academic integrity: Though students are strongly encouraged to discuss the assignments with one another, each student must submit answers to the assignments independently of one another, written in her or his own words. Additionally, students agree that by taking this course, their mid-term examinations and final papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted exams and papers will be included as source documents in the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) site.

D. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing (i) will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office, (ii) will receive a failing grade on the assignment at issue, and (iii) will be in jeopardy of failing the entire course, depending on the nature of the breach of academic integrity.

E. The use of technology (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) is to be limited to engagement with course material; all technology is prohibited during any closed-book assignment.

F. If any accommodations are needed due to a disability or for religious reasons, please notify me during the first class period or as soon as possible. Students requesting accommodations for the course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and also to the OSD Liaison in the Philosophy Department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS  
{tentative}

1. Tues Jan 7	introduction: idealism and logic	Thurs Jan 9	<i>Phenomenology</i> , Preface (selections)
2. Tues Jan 14	<i>Encyclopedia</i> , Introduction: §§1- 18	Thurs Jan 16	<i>Science of Logic</i> (SL), 1 <sup>st</sup> ed Preface, Introduction: pp7- 11, pp23-43
3. Tues Jan 21	<i>Encyclopedia Logic</i> (EL), introductory: §§19-25; §§79-83	Thurs Jan 23	SL, Doctrine of Being: pp45-57
4. Tues Jan 28	SL, Quality, Being: pp58-82	Thurs Jan 30	EL, Quality: §§84- 98
5. Tues Feb 4	SL, Existence: pp83-125	Thurs Feb 6	EL, Quantity, Measure: §§99-111
		*Fri Feb 7	1 <sup>st</sup> essay due, midnight
6. Tues Feb 11	SL, Becoming of Essence: pp326-35	Thurs Feb 13	SL, Doctrine of Essence: pp337- 40; EL, Essence: §§112-14
7. Tues Feb 18	SL, 'essentialities': pp354-85	Thurs Feb 20	EL, 'reflection': §§115-22
8. Tues Feb 25	EL, 'concrete existence', 'thing', 'appearance': §§123-141	Thurs Feb 27	SL, 'the absolute', pp465-78; EL 'actuality': §§142-59
9. Tues Mar 4	SL Doctrine of the Concept, Foreword, Intro: pp507-27	Thurs Mar 6	EL concept, judgment, syllogism: §§160- 71, §§181-82
10. Tues Mar 11	EL the object: §§194-212	Thurs Mar 13	SL the idea: pp670-75, pp752- 53; EL the idea: §§282-303
11. *Tues Mar 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> essay due, 11am	*Fri Mar 21	extra-credit due 5pm