Course Code: HUMA 6003E
Course Title: Philosophy of History and Society [co-listed with HUMA4000L]
Course Offered in: Fall 2019
Course Instructor: Professor Eric S Nelson

Course Description:
This course will introduce students to key questions in the philosophy of history and society in the context of the development of modern German philosophy from German Idealism and Marxism to Hermeneutics and Critical Social Theory.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

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Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction to the course and to Kant on history, progress, and Enlightenment
Week 2: Hegel on the philosophy of history, the master/slave dialectic, the Enlightenment, and Modernity
Week 3: Right-Hegelianism, Left-Hegelianism (Feuerbach), and the early humanistic Marx
Week 4: Marx’s mature philosophy of history and social transformation
Week 5: Dilthey on the philosophy of history and the hermeneutics of historical life
Week 6: Heidegger, Gadamer, Arendt on hermeneutics, history, and historicity
Paper One Due: topic in late eighteenth or nineteenth-century philosophy
Week 7: The project of “Western Marxism” and the rediscovery of German Idealism (Lukács, Bloch, Benjamin)
Week 8: The early program of interdisciplinary materialism and a critical social theory (Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse)
Week 9: The dialectic of Enlightenment (Horkheimer and Adorno)
Division of Humanities  
Tentative Course Syllabus

Week 10: Habermas on the dialectic of modernity and the theory of communicative action  
Week 11: Honneth and the dialectic of recognition  
Week 12: Critical Social Theory today (Honneth, Fraser, Jaeggi)  
Week 13: Conclusions and Student Presentations  
Paper Two Due: topic in twentieth-century and contemporary philosophy

Planned Assessment Tasks:

In-class discussion and group discussion assignments: 30%  
Research Paper One (8-10 pages): 35%  
Research Paper Two (8-10 pages): 35%

Three samples of readings: