Lingnan University  
Department of Philosophy – MA in Practical Philosophy Programme

Course Title: Kant’s Transcendental Philosophy and Post-Kantian German Idealism  
Course Code: PHI522  
Recommended Study Year: -  
No. of Credits/Term: 3  
Mode of Tuition: Lecture and Tutorial  
Class Contact Hours: 2 hours lecture per week  
1 hour tutorial per week  
Category in Major Programme: Traditions and Practical Wisdom  
Prerequisite(s): -  
Co-requisite(s): -  
Exclusion(s): -  
Exemption Requirement(s): -

Brief Course Description  
This course is designed to outline the development of modern German philosophy from Kant to Hegel. The course investigates how Kant’s “Copernican turn” revolutionizes the traditional metaphysics and how the post-Kantian skeptical attacks on Kant’s concept of thing-in-itself and the method of transcendental philosophy give rise to post-Kantian German Idealism. Finally, it also examines how, in answering theses skeptical attacks on Kant, Fichte and Hegel develop their philosophies.

Aims  
1. Students are expected to understand the rationale behind the development from Kant to the post-Kantian German Idealism.  
2. They will reflect the most distinctive essence of man -- freedom.

Learning Outcomes  
On successful completion of the course, student will:  
1. Appreciate Kant’s contribution to the development of metaphysics;  
2. Understand the development from Kant’s philosophy to the post-Kantian German Idealism;  
3. Understand the philosophical considerations that post-Kantian German Idealists have in mind in developing their philosophies;  
4. Grasp the exegetical and critical skills in reading the texts of modern German philosophers.

Indicative Content  
1. Is the project of critique of pure reason a metaphysics of experience?  
2. The structure of the Critique of Pure Reason and the system of Kant’s whole philosophy.  
4. Reinhold’s Elementary Philosophy.  
5. Schulze’s Aenesidemus.  
6. Fichte’s, and Hegel’s answers to Schulze’s skepticism.  
7. Outline of Fichte’s Science of Knowledge.  
8. How Hegel develops his metaphysics from the Transcendental Deduction in Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason.

Teaching Method  
Lecture and Tutorial  
Students are reminded that we will spend a good deal of time interacting with the assigned texts.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes  
1. Students will give an individual or group presentation. They are expected to be able to explain
the philosophical development from Kant’s to post-Kantian German Idealism.

2. Students will write short essays concerning the contribution of Kant’s philosophy to the development of metaphysics.

3. Students will write a term-end paper in which they are expected to explicate the philosophical considerations that post-Kantian German Idealists have in mind in developing their philosophies.

4. Students are also expected to engage in in-class discussion or debate. In-class performance will be partly assessed and they are expected to show the result of exegetical and critical skills of their readings of the texts of modern German Philosophers.

Assessment
100% Continuous Assessment

Required Readings

Supplementary Readings
Henrich, Dieter, Between Kant and Hegel (Harvard University Press, 2003).