

McGill University
Department of Philosophy
19th Century Philosophy PHIL 367 (Fall 2018)

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In this course we will study some of the most illustrious and interesting continental thinkers of the nineteenth century, paying particular attention to their groundbreaking contributions in aesthetic philosophy and systematic philosophy of freedom. Schiller's philosophy of art as that which can intuit the identity of subject and object. Schiller, disenchanted with the French Revolution, suggested that an understanding of beauty and the cultivation of artistic creative culture would address the moral impoverishment of his fellow citizens. Nietzsche felt that his modern society was morally, politically and intellectually corrupt and wanted to create a whole new society and culture that recognized the value, indeed the *lifesaving power* of great art. *Art* is the only activity that makes human life worth living, Nietzsche argues in *The Birth of Tragedy*, and he turns to the great art of the ancient Greeks such as Aeschylus, Homer and Sophocles to make his case. We will be especially interested in his arguments.

We will study *systematic* thinkers such as

The Science of Knowledge by Johann Fichte, tr. by Peter Heath and John Lachs. Cambridge University Press, 1982. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses.)

Fichte: Early Philosophical Writings by Johann Fichte, tr. by Daniel Breazeale. Cornell University Press, 1988. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses.)

Aesthetics: Lectures on Fine Art by G.W.F Hegel, tr. by T.M. Knox. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses)

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Hegel, tr. by H.S. Harris. New York: State University of New York Press, 1977. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses.)

On the Aesthetic Education of Man by Friedrich Schiller, tr. by Reginald Snell. Dover Publications, 2004.

The World as Will and Representation Vol 1, II by Arthur Schopenhauer, tr. by E. Payne, Dover Publications. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses)

The Birth of Tragedy by Friedrich Nietzsche, tr. by Raymond Geuss and Ronald Speirs. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Twilight of the Idols by Friedrich Nietzsche, tr. by Michael Tanner, Penguin, 1990. Excerpts. (Available on My Courses).

