**Course Requirements Philosophy 280**

**19th Century Philosophy: From Kant to Nietzsche**

**Course Description**

Professor J. M. Lawler
T, TH, 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM
[Class #24192](http://www.buffalo.edu/class-schedule?switch=showclass&semester=spring&division=UGRD&dept=PHI&regnum=24192)

In his systematic philosophical works, Kant attempts to resolve the contradictions in early modern philosophy between materialism and idealism, matter and spirit, determinism and free will, self-interest and morality, secular science and religion.

While Kant’s thought culminated one stage in the history of Western philosophy, it provide the challenge for his 19th century followers. With his conception of dialectical reason, Hegel, followed by Marx, argues that an expanded conception of reason can resolve the oppositions generated by Kant’s abstract conceptual analysis. More impressed by Kant’s stress on the limits of reason, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche argue that ultimate reality can be accessed by such non-rational means as religious faith or creative imagination. The American pragmatist William James returns to Kant’s thought as a way of reconciling modern science and personal freedom.

**Course Materials:**

Lecture outlines and readings will be posted on the course website at [www.buffalo.edu/~jlawler](http://www.buffalo.edu/~jlawler). Click on the link to PHI280.

**Requirements:**

1. Students will be responsible for giving one 10 minute presentation during the semester based on the course readings and related materials. **30%**
2. There will be periodic, unannounced short quizzes based on lectures, class presentations, and course readings. **30%** One absence will be allowed without any excuse. After this, a doctor’s statement of medical necessity, or equivalent evidence of a serious reason for missing class, will be required.
3. There will be a final exam during the exam period, based on a list of questions that will summarize central course issues. **40%** The main questions will be posted ahead of time a week before the final exam. Provisionally, a sample set of questions are available on line on the course website based on previous versions of this course.