Syllabus
PHIL 453/553, Schelling
Winter 2013
MW 1600-1750, 204 CHA
CRN: 25282/25289

Professor: Warnek (warnek@uoregon.edu)
Office hours: M W 2-3:50 and by appointment

Course Description
This course is an introduction to the work and thought of the remarkable and revolutionary nineteenth century thinker, F. W. J. Schelling. The course begins with seminal texts from Schelling’s early period, including excerpts from his philosophy of nature (1803) and his writings on the artwork from the System of Transcendental Idealism (1800). We then read two important texts from Schelling’s middle period, “Philosophy and Religion” (1804) and the celebrated essay on Human Freedom (1809). The latter marks the last significant publication during Schelling’s lifetime. We will also consider important interpretations of this essay, including those of Heidegger and Zizek. Schelling continued to lecture and write for the next 45 years after the publication of the Freedom Essay. We will read two recently translated lecture courses Schelling gave in Berlin near the end of his long career, his lectures on positive philosophy and his lectures on the philosophy of mythology. The course concludes with a reading of the third version of Schelling’s great unfinished work, Ages of the World (1815). Special attention will be paid to the themes of nature, art, freedom and myth. We will consider Schelling as a figure who both gives rise to German Idealism (as a critical appropriation of Kantian philosophy) and as a thinker who first pushes philosophy past the boundaries of this idealist project, especially as those come to be defined by Hegel. In this way, Schelling emerges as a thinker in dialogue with philosophy in its most contemporary concerns.

Course Requirements
1) Attendance and participation in seminar
2) Mid-term paper/exam, due Feb. 11.
3) Final paper/exam, due March 20.

Required Texts
Some readings will be available as pdf’s on Blackboard. This is noted on the schedule.
You can purchase the required books at Black Sun Books ~ 2467 Hilyard, (541) 484-3777.

1) Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom (SUNY)
2) The Grounding of Positive Philosophy (SUNY)
3) Historical-Critical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mythology (SUNY)
4) The Ages of the World (SUNY)
Course Schedule

1.7   Syllabus, Introductions, Oldest System Program (Handout & Blackboard)
1.9   Main Propositions of a Philosophy of Art (Blackboard)

1.14  Introduction to Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature (Blackboard)
1.16  Philosophy and Religion (Blackboard)

1.21  Philosophy and Religion
1.23  Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom

1.28  Freedom Essay
1.30  Freedom Essay

2.4   Freedom Essay
2.6   Freedom Essay

2.11  Grounding of Positive Philosophy **(Mid-term Due)**
2.13  Grounding of Positive Philosophy

2.18  Grounding of Positive Philosophy
2.20  Philosophy of Mythology

2.25  Philosophy of Mythology
2.27  Philosophy of Mythology

3.4   Ages of the World
3.6   Ages of the World

3.11  Ages of the World
3.13  Ages of the World

3.20  **Final Paper Due**
Schelling’s works translated into English (in order of composition)

The Unconditional in Human Knowledge: Four Early Essays (1794-96) ~ Bucknell
Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature (1797) ~ Cambridge
Treatise Explicatory of the Idealism in the Science of Knowledge (1797)*
First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature (1799) ~ SUNY
System of Transcendental Idealism (1800) ~ Virginia
Bruno; or, On the Natural and the Divine Principles of Things (1802) ~ SUNY
System of Philosophy in General and of the Philosophy of Nature in Particular (1804)*
The Philosophy of Art (1801, 1804) ~ Minnesota
On University Studies (1803) ~ Ohio
Philosophy and Religion (1804) ~ SUNY
Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom (1809) (SUNY)**
Stuttgart Seminars (1810)*
Clara or, On Nature’s Connection to the Spirit World (1810) ~ SUNY
Ages of the World (1813, 1815) ~ SUNY ***
Schelling’s Treatise on the “Deities of Samothrace” (1815) ~ Scholars Press
On the Nature of Philosophy as Science, a.k.a. “Erlanger Lectures” (1821)
On the History of Modern Philosophy (1827) ~ Cambridge
The Grounding of Positive Philosophy (1842) ~ SUNY
Historical-Critical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mythology (1842) ~ SUNY
On the Source of the Eternal Truths (1850) ~ Owl of Minerva, Fall 1990

* In Idealism and the Endgame of Theory, ed. Thomas Pfau (SUNY, 1994)
** Other translations through Continuum and Open Court Press
*** The 1813 version in The Abyss of Freedom/Ages of the World (Michigan)
**** In German Idealist Philosophy (Penguin)
Important Interpretations and Scholarship

Heidegger, *Schelling’s Treatise on the Essence of Human Freedom*
Zizek, *The Indivisible Remainder*
Krell, *Contagion: Sexuality, Disease, and Death in German Idealism and Romanticism*
------  Tragic Absolute
------  “The Crisis of Reason in the Nineteenth Century: Schelling’s Treatise on Human Freedom.” In *The Collegium Phaenomenologicum*
Wirth, “Schelling and the Force of Nature,” in *Interrogating the Tradition*
------  Conspiracies of Life
Beach, *The Potencies of God. Schelling’s Philosophy of Mythology*
Bowie, *Schelling and Modern European Philosophy*
Snow, *Schelling and the End of Idealism*
Brown, *The Later Philosophy of Schelling*
Esposito, *Schelling’s Idealism and the Philosophy of Nature*
White, *Schelling: An Introduction to the System of Freedom*
Jaspers, *Größe und Verhängnis*
Gabriel Marcel, *Coleridge et Schelling*
Paul Tillich, *Die religionsgeschichtliche Konstruction in Schellings positiver Philosophie, ihre Voraussetzungen und Prinzipien*.
Walter Schulz, *Die Vollendung des deutschen Idealismus in der Spätphilosophie Schellings*
Tilliette, *Schelling: Une Philosophie de Devenir*
Manfred Frank, *Der Unendliche Mangel an Sein*
Holz, *Die Idee der Philosophie bei Schelling*
Hogrebe, *Prädikation und Genesis*
Jähnig, *Schelling: Kunst in der Philosophie*
Some Important Dates

1775 born at Leonberg, Würtemberg

1790 admitted as a student to the Tübingen Theological Seminary, makes friends with Hegel and Hölderlin.

1793 first published work, essay On Myths

1794 writes “On the Possibility of Form in Philosophy,” published 1795

1795 “On the I as Principle of Philosophy,” and “Philosophical Letters on Dogmatism and Criticism.”

Graduates from Tübingen. For next three years tutors two sons of Baron Riedesel.


1797 Ideas for a Philosophy of Nature

1798 On the World Soul.

Meets Goethe.

Appointed professor at Jena.

Friendships with Schlegel brothers.

Meets August Schlegel’s wife, Caroline.

1799 First Outline of a Systme of Philosophy of Nature. And Introduction to the Outline, or On the Concept of Speculative Physics

1800 System of Transcendental Idealism

1801 Exposition of my Systme of Philosophy. Hegel's On the Difference Between Fichte’s and Schelling’s Systems

1802 Bruno, or On the Divine and Natural Prinicple of Things


1803 Lectures on University Studies. Marries Caroline Schlegel who is recently divorced. Professor at Würzburg

1804 Philosophy and Religion

1806 Moves to Munich

1807 Publication of Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit: night with black cows

1809 Caroline dies. Philosophical Investigations into the Essence of Human Freedom

1810 Holds Stuttgart Seminars

1811 Begins the Ages of the World

1812 Marries Pauline Gotter

1815 On the Deities of Samothrace

1820 Moves to Erlangen

1827 Recalled to Munich

1841 Moves to Berlin; begins Lectures

1842-3 Lectures on The Grounding of Positive Philosophy

1843 Attacks on Schelling by Engels and Feuerbach

1854 Gives his last lecture

Dies at Bad Ragaz, Switzerland