

SPECIAL TOPICS

**PHIL 4801/6801**

SPRING 2027

# Hegel

## *on Cognition and Knowledge*

The nature of our minds, our thought processes, and our experiences are often described in terms of cognition. Is the basic structure of cognition always the same, or does it transform as new levels of knowledge are unlocked? If our cognition and knowledge are fundamentally codetermined by what is Other to them, how does building philosophical and scientific systems work? Can we ever really think purely without biases and presuppositions? Can knowledge be absolute? Are ideas real or ideal? What is the best beginning point for philosophy?

This course will explore the theory of cognition and knowledge developed by G.W.F. Hegel, one of the most influential philosophers of the past 250 years. Hegel challenges traditional ways of distinguishing subject and object, real and ideal, thing and concept. He argues there is a unique dynamism to the structure of cognition and knowledge, which develops through a "dialectical" unfolding of ideas. To explore Hegel's theory, we will study sections from some of his most famous works, including the Phenomenology of Spirit (1807), the Science of Logic (1831), and the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences (1817).

PROFESSOR

Dr. Sıla Özkara

MEETS

Tu–Th 1:00–2:25 pm