

**FIL 4532 – RECENT HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY**

**Seminar: PHILOSOPHY AND TRAGEDY**

**Fridays 14.15 – 16.00**

**Seminar room: GM 203**

**IFIKK, University of Oslo, SPRING 2018**

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**Office hours: Tuesdays 13.30 – 15, or by appointment**



*(Illustration: Gustave Moreau, Oedipus and the Sphinx, 1864)*

Who are we? What is the relationship between human freedom and fate? What is our relationship to Being? Is existence ultimately tragic? Can art reveal insight into practical and metaphysical questions that philosophy is not able to express? Can the difference between Greek and modern tragedy help us articulate who we late moderns are? These are some of the questions raised by the philosophers we will study in this seminar and some of the questions that we will try to understand in the course of the semester.

This course is devoted to studying German philosophy of the 19th Century, broadly conceived to stretch all the way from 1791 to 1935. We will approach the many-faceted and complex development of what is called Post-Kantian philosophy by pursuing a common thread: the great philosophical interest in and significance attributed to tragedy.

In order to do this, we will both read some tragedies and develop our own interpretations of these and read primary texts by Schiller, Herder, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Heidegger.

**Other requirements**

This is a seminar. That means that you have to attend the meetings regularly, bring the assigned texts with you, and be prepared to engage in close reading and discussion of the material. Every week you are expected to write a short reading reflection (1 page, spaced 1.5) on the material studied and e-mail it to the instructor no later than the evening before the seminar. You need to submit at least 8 such reflection papers *on time* in the course of the semester in order to be allowed to write the exam. The exam consists of a term paper on a topic of your own choosing, which you develop into a paper thesis together with me.

