Syllabus

**G. W. F. Hegel**

**Lectures on the Philosophy of**

**“World History”**

(Prague Humanities Institute)

The task of this philosophy course will attempt to provide students with an introduction to Hegel’s lectures on the philosophy of world-history. Hegel’s lectures on the philosophy of world history forms the last section of his philosophy of objective Spirit and represents one of the most concrete parts of his mature system of thought. According to Hegel, world-history is not meaningless chance, but a rational process - the realization of the Spirit of freedom in the world. In this course we will examine the history of the world, from ancient orient through classical Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages, to modern times, by attempting to penetrate the essence of each culture and establishing its place in the development of Hegel’s dialectic. We then ask the question of whether or not world history has any meaning? or whether or not there is any final purpose or end toward which history is moving? To help answer this question, we turn directly to Hegel’s concept of Freedom,World-Spirit, and Providence, in order to show, in what sense, world-history, for Hegel, represents the self-unfolding of Spirit in time as the Absolute’s “March of Freedom” through the World.

**Required text:**

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**