PH-4385 M. HEIDEGGER'S BEING AND TIME
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Dominican School for Philosophy and Theology
Fall 2014
TH 12:40pm-03:30pm
DSPT room 2
3 units

In this seminar we will read and come to understand one of the capital texts of the Western Philosophical tradition, Heidegger's Being and Time. We will explore Heidegger's background in Aristotelian and Christian thought as well as in the tradition of Phenomenology, and how he transforms these programmatically in his work. This exploration might include some texts from Heidegger's earlier lectures, as far as they are available in English (knowledge of German is helpful but not absolutely necessary.) Time permitting, we will also look at one or two texts from his later writings, to get a sense of his overall development.

Knowledge of German is helpful but not absolutely necessary.

Seminar. Class presentations and 15-20 page research paper
MA/MTS, PhD/ThD; [Auditors excluded]

The format of the class is a seminar; attendance and participation in the discussion is therefore important.

As an outcome, the student will have gained an understanding of this fundamental text of the history of philosophy, and its context. The student will be familiar with Heidegger’s terminology (in translation, and where appropriate in the German original) and its argumentative strategy. Unmeasurable though it is, the student will have become a bit more of a thinker.

The student will also have developed advanced skills in research and writing, as well as skills in the oral expression of philosophical thought.

The student will demonstrate this knowledge through
a) Class participation and contribution to the discussions.
   b) A 15-20pp research paper (75%).

This will include an evaluation of the student in the following areas:
   a. Collaborative learning (Institutional Goal B.1): based on
      i. class participation
      ii. the paper proposal you are submitting and integration of feedback
      iii. your contribution to the common good of the class:
         1. class preparation
         2. class participation
   b. Self-direction (Institutional Goal A.3):
      finding your own paper topic will demonstrate this ability
   c. Leadership (Institutional Goal B.1)
      Your paper and its topic can be an opportunity to show that you can identify relevant issues and address them.

1 For some rubrics of evaluation for the Institutional Goals, please refer to the "Rubrics for Life-long Learning Skills" and "Rubrics for Effective Leadership" on the DSPT website.
Students will take turns in the **class preparation**: this preparation should articulate the argument of a given text in a *brief and concise* manner, so as to give the participants a starting point for discussion. It should make the text’s logic as clear as possible and might offer some reflection questions for discussion. It is always helpful to use handouts.

The **research paper** will consist in relating Heidegger’s text to another author. This can be an author that influenced Heidegger and forms part of the background of the text. Or it can be an author influenced by Heidegger in turn (critical or not). It might also address a systematic topic that engages Heidegger’s thought in a critical manner.

For this purpose, I ask you to give me a **paper proposal** by TH 10/30. This proposal should consist of a short paragraph, describing the topic of your choice, and a **bibliography**. The bibliography is most important. Please make your bibliography **as specific as possible**. As one possible research tool I recommend the “**philosopher’s index**” that is available on the GTU library website. But for this field there are obviously many more resources.

The **dead line** for the **paper** is **TH 12/11**.

**Class attendance** is mandatory. Attendance and participation will impact the grade.  
*I would like you to forgo the use of laptops during the class sessions.*

**Bibliography:**

**Required text:**
ISBN-10: 0061575593  
Paperback $14.08

**Other recommended texts and commentaries:**


**online:**
- *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* and *Stanford Encyclopedia* (with bibliography)
- Letter on Humanism
- What is Metaphysics? with commentary
- Heidegger’s work in Chronology
- Some materials and texts
- Glossary

**Syllabus dates**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Th 9/4</td>
<td>Introduction, §§ 1-8 (p. 21-66)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 9/11</td>
<td>Part I, Division One, §§ 8-16</td>
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<td>Th 9/18</td>
<td>Part I, Division One, §§ 16-24</td>
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<td>Th 10/2</td>
<td>Part I, Division One, §§ 31-38</td>
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<td>Th 10/9</td>
<td>Part I, Division One, §§ 39-44</td>
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<td><em>I will be at the ACPA conference this Thursday; we will try to have this class on Wednesday 10/8, or another suitable time.</em></td>
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<td>Th 10/16</td>
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<td>Th 10/23</td>
<td><strong>Reading Week</strong></td>
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<td>Th 10/30</td>
<td><em>paper proposals due</em></td>
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<td>Th 11/6</td>
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<td>Th 11/27</td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving</strong></td>
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<td>Th 12/4</td>
<td>Part I, Division Two, §§ 72-77</td>
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<td>Th 12/11</td>
<td>Part I, Division Two, §§ 78-83, with <em>What is Metaphysics?</em> (Time permitting we can include a look at the <em>Letter on Humanism.</em>)</td>
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Paper Guidelines
The topic of your paper can be a comparison with another thinker or a discussion of a systematic topic. There are many other possibilities, although I discourage papers that are merely descriptive of Heidegger’s thought. I would like you to integrate two thinkers or a conversation around an issue. I do encourage you to use topics of your own interest or background. There are many graduate student conferences now; you might want to write a paper with an eye to presenting it in such a venue. An increasing number of students have done so successfully. The topic is, however, subject to approval. You can talk to me before or after your proposal.

The paper is a research paper (15-20 pages, 12pt, double space). Hence I expect you to research and use secondary literature. This is to be documented in the use of footnotes (not endnotes!) and in a bibliography.

The bibliography is most important. Please make your bibliography as specific as possible. I would like to see at least three pertinent journal articles in your bibliography; this is more important than generic books. As a help: please use the “philosopher’s index” at the GTU library, although this might only provide you with a starting point. Topics without pertinent literature are not viable; if it requires extensive research on primary texts, you should leave it for your dissertation.

To avoid some common pitfalls: please focus on your topic. There is no need for biographical introductions on philosophers. (Biographical details can, of course, be brought in, if they explain some subject matter.)

Please avoid flowery or cryptic language. Be as sober as possible. Building literary smoke screens will not make your paper appear more profound, but only less intelligible. Focus on making arguments and positions clear.

Do some proofreading. If English is your second language, it can be a good idea to ask someone else to help you. Please do write complete sentences that have a grammatical structure. (Unfortunately that does not always seem to be self-understood.) Shorter sentences can make that easier. Grammatical correctness is more important than political correctness (e.g. do not use “they” as a singular).

Subdividing it into chapters (with headlines) can help the structure of your paper. It will help the clarity of your own thought process – as well as that of the reader. Please use page numbers.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade.

Proposal
The proposal is due the class after reading week. It consists in 2 or 3 sentences, stating your topic, plus a pertinent bibliography. (Please do not include the textbooks of the class.) This exercise is meant to help you to clarify your topic and focus your bibliography; after that, the paper should come easy. It is also a good exercise for a future thesis proposal. The topic is subject to approval.