PH-4385: Heidegger’s Being and Time
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

Spring 2018
Fridays, 12:40-3:30 PM
DSPT 2
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Course Description and Objectives:

It is no exaggeration to say that Heidegger's Being and Time is one of the most important books of the twentieth century. Heidegger's magnum opus shows the influence of many of the greatest minds of the western world, synthesizing the thought of Aristotle, Augustine, Scotus, Eckhart, Luther, Kant and Neo-Kantianism, Kierkegaard, Dilthey, Husserl, and Scheler, among others. Despite being unfinished, its impact has been equally prolific, decisively shaping phenomenology, hermeneutics, existentialism, and poststructuralism, as well as contributing to metaphysics, the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of religion and theology, and the philosophy of language.

This course constitutes a carefully guided reading of Heidegger's Being and Time. As an advanced seminar for M.A. and Ph.D. students, it will begin with a review of phenomenology and foundational phenomenological concepts essential for understanding Heidegger and the key themes of Being and Time. Thus, while a certain familiarity with the history of philosophy on the part of the student is presumed, no prior coursework in phenomenology is required. The course will then continue with a reading of Heidegger's important seminar course, Basic Problems of Phenomenology, considered by many to be a continuation of the project of Being and Time. The course will conclude with a brief look at one or two key texts from Heidegger's later period, enabling students to see how Heidegger's earlier phenomenological project of a fundamental ontology is developed and transformed over a number of decades.
By the end of the semester, students will have gained an understanding of Heidegger's rich and difficult text, as well as a grasp of Heidegger's existential-phenomenological terminology, argumentative strategy, basic themes, and key criticisms of the western philosophical tradition. More specifically, students will also be able to:

- Identify Heidegger's basic project in *Being and Time*, its connection to his analytic of Dasein, and its transformations in Heidegger's later thought.
- Explain Heidegger's methodology, including his use of phenomenology, his practice of historical de(con)struction, and the role of formal indication.
- Summarize Heidegger's formally-indicative concept of Dasein and the basic features of his *Daseinsanalytik*, including the key ideas of Being-in-the-World, care, understanding, state-of-mind, discourse, and fallenness.
- Describe Heidegger's understanding of authentic existence, the corresponding forms of inauthenticity he describes, and its implications for his methodology, as well as for his understanding of community and ethics.
- Explain Heidegger's understanding of history and historicality (or historicity) in *Being and Time*, and its implications for hermeneutics.
- Identify the connection that Heidegger makes between time and being, and the role that death plays in disclosing Dasein's own essential temporality.
- Discuss Heidegger's understanding of being and its relation to his critique of phenomenology, metaphysics, and onto-theology.

**Course Requirements:**

As an advanced seminar course, this class will focus primarily on the discussion of Heidegger's *Being and Time*, the central text of the course, although the instructor will provide background material in lecture form from time to time. Students will be expected to carefully prepare assigned readings in order to actively participate in the conversation and raise thoughtful
questions in class. Each week a student will be asked to lead the class discussion by introducing a particular text and raising several substantive questions for discussion. These activities will foster student capacities for self-direction and collaborative learning (DSPT Institutional Goals A3 and B1). Because this class is structured as a seminar, attendance and participation in the discussion is essential. Absences, whatever the reason, will significantly affect a student’s final grade. Students with disabilities or whose first language is not English are encouraged to speak with the instructor about any special needs they might have.

Students will be evaluated according to the quality of their class participation and leadership of class discussions, and a final research paper of 15-20 pages. These assignments are designed to help students develop their own critical thinking on issues raised in Heidegger’s texts, hone their research skills and develop greater proficiency in oral communication and academic writing. They also offer students the opportunity to show their growth in the DSPT’s institutional goals of integrative thinking, self-direction, collaborative learning, and leadership (Institutional Goals A1-3 and B1). All sources in the final research paper should be cited using proper “Turabian” format (see Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations. Eighth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). Students should conscientiously avoid plagiarism, and are asked to consult the DSPT Student Handbook for the DSPT’s policies regarding academic honesty. A paper proposal consisting of a description of the student’s thesis, the methodology to be used, and the significance of the project, along with a preliminary bibliography of a minimum of 10 sources in Turabian format, should be submitted by April 13, and will be factored into the final grade for the research paper. The final research paper is due no later than May 18, 2018. Late papers will be accepted, but will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g., from an A to A-) for each day past the date due.

Grading: Weekly Class Participation: 25%
Class Presentations and Discussion Leadership: 25%
Final Research Paper: 50%
Assigned Texts:


Weekly reading assignments will be taken from these assigned texts, as well as from readings posted on Moodle (http://moodle.gtu.edu).

Course Schedule:

2/2: Introduction to the Course
  What is Phenomenology?
  Dan Zahavi, “Phenomenology”
  Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, Preface
  Selections from Robert Sokolowski, *Introduction to Phenomenology*

2/9: Phenomenological Method: An Overview
  Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, §§1-15
  Selections from Sokolowski, *Introduction to Phenomenology*
  Zahavi and Gallagher, *The Phenomenological Mind*, Chapter 4
  Optional: Selections from Edmund Husserl, *Crisis of the European Sciences*
2/16: Heidegger's Phenomenology

An Introduction to the Analytic of *Dasein*
Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§1–11

*Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§1–6
Volpi, “Being and Time—A ‘Translation’ of the *Nicomachean Ethics*?”

2/23: Dasein and Being-in-the-World

The Worldhood of the World
Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§12-24
Optional: Søren Overgaard, “Being There: Heidegger’s Formally Indicative Concept of Dasein”

3/2: Being-With and *Das Man*

Being-In: *Befindlichkeit, Verstehen*, and Discourse
Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§25–38
Optional: Matthew Ratcliffe, “Why Mood Matters”

3/9: *Dasein* as Care


3/16: *Dasein*, Temporality and Death

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§45–60
Optional: Piotr Hoffman, “Death, Time, History: Division II of *Being and Time*”
3/23: *Dasein* and Authenticity

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§61-71

William Blattner, “Authenticity and Resoluteness”

3/30: No Class (Good Friday)

4/6: History and Dasein’s Historicity

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§72-83

Optional: Joseph K. Schear “Historical Finitude”

4/13: Heidegger on Being in Kant

Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§7-9

Friedrich-Wilhelm Von Hermann, “*Being and Time* and *The Basic Problems of Phenomenology*”

4/20: Heidegger on Essence and Existence

Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§10-12


4/27: Heidegger on Modern Ontology

Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§13-15

4/29: Heidegger on Being in Logic

Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§16-18

5/4: The Problem of the Ontological Difference

Heidegger, *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, §§19-20
5/11: Being and Temporality

Heidegger, Basic Problems of Phenomenology, §§21

Heidegger, “What is Metaphysics?”


5/18: Final Research Paper Due by 5 PM

N.B.: The instructor reserves the right to revise the course syllabus as the need arises.

Additional Resources

The following is a list of supplemental and suggested readings dealing with various aspects of Heidegger’s philosophy. They are by no means required reading for the course, but may be of some interest to students as they delve further into Heidegger and/or begin to develop topics for their research papers.

Primary Sources

Heidegger, Martin. Gesamtausgabe (102 volumes). Frankfurt am Main, DE: Vittorio Klostermann, [1910-76].


Secondary Sources


Loidolt, Sophie. “Phenomenological Sources, Kantian Borders: An Outline of Transcendental Philosophy as Object-Guided Philosophy.” In *Phenomenology and the Transcendental*. Edited


----. "You, Me and We: The Sharing of Emotional Experiences." *Journal of Consciousness Studies*.


