

University of Windsor
Department of Philosophy

Phil 470/570 - Recent German Philosophy: Heidegger's *Being and Time*

Fall 2015: Mondays 7 - 9.40 PM - DH 253

Instructor: Dr. Radu Neculau

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

According to Richard Rorty, Heidegger and Wittgenstein are the two most important philosophers of the 20th century. This course is a careful reading of Heidegger's famous early work, *Being and Time*. The course explores ideas such as: the critique of Western metaphysics and the retrieval of the question of being; the ontological structure of human beings; the wordliness of the world and the relational totality of meaning; the hermeneutical structure of understanding; inauthenticity and its socio-ontological sources; boredom, anxiety, and care; truth as discovery and as disclosure; being toward death, conscience, and anticipatory resoluteness; time and temporality.

Heidegger introduces a new philosophical vocabulary that cannot be deciphered through individual study alone. The successful student of Heidegger will carefully do the readings before class and come to class prepared to ask questions and engage in class discussions. Regular attendance is a must. No specialized knowledge of phenomenological or existentialist philosophy is necessary for a basic reading of Heidegger. However, some knowledge of Plato and Aristotle and familiarity with some of the more important figures of modern philosophy (rationalist, empiricist, and Kant) and 19th century philosophy (Hegel and Nietzsche) is highly desirable.

Students who cannot meet these expectations should reconsider taking the course at this time.

READINGS

(a) Required primary texts

- Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, second edition translated by Joan Stambaugh and Dennis Schmidt (SUNY, 2010). This is the *only translation* that will be used in this course. The book is available in the bookstore.
- Martin Heidegger, "What is Metaphysics," available online and on CLEW.
- Martin Heidegger, "The Essence of Truth," available online and on CLEW.

(b) Highly recommended secondary literature (online and on reserve in Leddy)

- Hubert Dreyfus, *Being in the World. A Commentary on Heidegger's Being and Time, Division I* (MIT, 1991; online with subscription at scribd.com); available for purchase through amazon.ca
- William Blattner, *Heidegger's Being and Time* (Continuum, 2006) (available at amazon.ca)

(c) Recommended secondary literature (online and on reserve in Leddy)

- Michael Inwood, *A Heidegger Dictionary* (Blackwell, 1999)
- Charles Guignon, *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger* (Cambridge, 2006)
- Otto Pöggeler, *Heidegger's Path of Thinking* (Humanities Press, 1990)
- Cristina Lafont, *Heidegger, Language, and World-Disclosure* (Cambridge, 2000)

- Daniel Dahlstrom, *Heidegger's Concept of Truth* (Cambridge, 2001)
- Johannes Fritsche, *Historical Destiny and National Socialism in Heidegger's Being and Time* (University of California, 1999)

TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

September 9

Heidegger, "What Is Metaphysics"; *Being and Time* (hereafter BT), pp. 1-35.

September 16

BT, pp. 41-63

September 23

BT, pp. 63-112

September 30

BT, pp. 112-138

October 7

BT, pp. 138-175/ **Paper topics**

October 21

BT, pp. 175-203

October 28

BT, pp. 204-221; "The Essence of Truth"/ **First paper due.**

November 4

BT, 221-257

November 11

BT, 257-289

November 18

BT, 289-319

November 25

BT, 319-352/ **Final paper topics**

December 2

BT, 352-385; conclusion

Course evaluation during the last two weeks of classes.

Final papers due on the date of the final exam for this course as schedule by the university.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Regular class attendance and reading ahead of class. If you are not prepared to satisfy these two requirements, you should reconsider taking this course.
- Class participation: 10%.
- One 6-8-page paper (40%) and one 10-12-page paper (50%). Paper topics will be provided in class two weeks before the deadline for submission.
- Paper submission policy: only hard copies; I cannot accept papers by email. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of one fraction of a letter grade per day. Papers submitted more than 5 days late will not be accepted.