

PL318 The Thought of Martin Heidegger

Seminar Leader: Tracy Colony
Course Times: Tuesday and Thursday 17:00-18:30
Email: t.colony@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This advanced course addresses the thought of Martin Heidegger, its distinctive phases, and its influence on and interpretation within philosophy today. We begin by examining Heidegger's early radicalization of Husserlian phenomenology and his turn to ontology. We will then read sections of Heidegger's seminal *Being and Time* (1927) and trace Heidegger's transition toward the preoccupations of his later works. With an eye to articulating the development of Heidegger's thought, we will engage in close readings of: *The Origin of the Work of Art* (1936), *Letter on Humanism* (1947) and *The Question Concerning Technology* (1954). We will conclude with selections from Heidegger's later period. Against the background of this chronological introduction we will also read important secondary texts on Heidegger's work and present crucial aspects of Heidegger's reception in Germany and France. As part of this course we will also confront the important question of the relation of Heidegger to National Socialism in light of key texts from that period and the only recently available *Ponderings or Black Notebooks* (1931-1938). All texts and discussion will be in English, however, simultaneous readings of Heidegger in the original German will be encouraged and supported.

Course Readings

Books to be purchased:

Martin Heidegger (David Farrell Krell, ed.). 2007 *Basic Writings*. New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 0-415-10161-1).

Martin Heidegger (John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson, trs.). 1962 *Being and Time*. San Francisco: Harper & Row. (ISBN: 0-06-063850-8).

Martin Heidegger (William McNeill, tr.). 1992 *The Concept of Time*. Oxford: Blackwell. (ISBN: 978-0-631-18425-6).

All other readings will be made available at the beginning of the course as handouts in hard copy.

Requirements

Attendance is required in all classes. Absences are registered in all classes, and lateness is registered as an absence. More than two absences in a semester will significantly affect your grade for the class. For periods of illness or leaves of absence consult the Student Handbook. Assessment and Writing Assignments: There will be specific reading assignments for each meeting. Everyone is expected to have done all assigned reading in advance. There will be a midterm essay of 2000 words due at 23:59 on March 18. There will be a final essay of 3000 words due at 23:59 May 19. Each person will be required to give one 15 minute in class presentation introducing the specific reading for that meeting. Policy on Late Submission of Papers: All written work must be submitted electronically and on time. As the Student Handbook states: essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+ for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

Midterm Essay 20%
Final Essay 30%
Presentation 20%
Participation 30%

Schedule

January 31 Introduction, No Readings

February 2 Introduction to Phenomenology, No Readings

February 7 *The Concept of Time* pp. 1-10

February 9 *The Concept of Time* pp. 11-22

February 14 *Being and Time* pp. 1-35

February 16 *Being and Time* pp. 36-64

February 21 *Being and Time* pp. 65-90

February 23 *Being and Time* pp. 90-114

February 28 *Being and Time* pp. 149-168

March 2 *Being and Time* pp. 210-224

March 7 *Being and Time* pp. 225-241

March 9 *Being and Time* pp. 256-273

March 14 *On the Essence of Truth*

March 16 *The Self-Assertion of the German University, Ponderings* selections

March 21 *The Origin of the Work of Art* pp. 143-182

March 23 *The Origin of the Work of Art* pp. 182-212

March 28 *The Age of the World Picture* pp. 57-65

March 30 *The Age of the World Picture* pp. 66-85

April 4 *Hölderlin and the Essence of Poetry*

April 6 *The Ister* film screening and discussion 19:00-22:00 (lecture hall)

Spring Break

April 18 *Letter on Humanism* pp. 217-243

April 20 *Letter on Humanism* pp. 244-265

April 25 *The Question Concerning Technology* pp. 311-328

April 27 *The Question Concerning Technology* pp. 328-341

May 2 *Building Dwelling Thinking* pp. 347-353

May 4 *Building Dwelling Thinking* pp. 353-363

May 9 *The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking*

May 11 Final Summary, No Readings