

PL318 The Thought of Martin Heidegger

Instructor: Tracy Colony
Course Times: Tuesday and Thursday 17:30-19:00
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* 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*, *Letter on Humanism* and *The Question Concerning Technology*. 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*. 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.). 2008 *Basic Writings*. New York: Routledge. (ISBN: 978-0-06-162701-9).

Martin Heidegger (John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson, trs.). 1962 *Being and Time*. San Francisco: Harper & Row. (ISBN: 978-0-06-157559-4).

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 on a Google drive.

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 participation 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 October 17. There will be a final essay of 3000 words due at 23:59 December 18. 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. If you are unable to attend class due to a COVID-19 related issue, an alternative will be made available.

Grade Breakdown

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

Schedule

Introduction, No Readings
Introduction to Phenomenology, No Readings

The Concept of Time pp. 1-10
The Concept of Time pp. 11-22

Being and Time pp. 1-35
Being and Time pp. 36-64

Being and Time pp. 65-90
Being and Time pp. 149-168

Being and Time pp. 210-224
Being and Time pp. 225-241

Being and Time pp. 256-273
What Is Metaphysics?

On the Essence of Truth
The Self-Assertion of the German University, Ponderings selections

Fall Break

The Origin of the Work of Art pp. 143-182

The Origin of the Work of Art pp. 182-212

The Age of the World Picture pp. 57-65

The Age of the World Picture pp. 66-85

Letter on Humanism pp. 217-243

Letter on Humanism pp. 244-265

The Question Concerning Technology pp. 311-321

The Question Concerning Technology pp. 322-331

The Question Concerning Technology pp. 332-341

Building Dwelling Thinking pp. 347-363

A Dialogue on Language pp. 1-28

A Dialogue on Language pp. 28-54

The End of Philosophy and the Task of Thinking

Final Summary, No Readings