



# PHIL\*3200 Continental Philosophy

Fall 2018

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 06, 2018

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## 1 Course Details

### 1.1 Calendar Description

This course focuses on 20th century French and German philosophy and the influences that shaped it. The course will be part historical, part contemporary. The historical part may survey touchstones of current Continental thought in ancient and modern philosophy. The contemporary part of this course may focus on any of the hundred or so key figures in 20th or 21st century Continental thought, or groupings thereof according to particular thematic.

**Pre-Requisite(s):** 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

### 1.2 Course Description

This course will be a survey of major thinkers and themes in Continental Philosophy—a tradition in European thought running from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the present. We will begin by situating the tradition against some of the modern thinkers who precede it; namely Spinoza, Kant, Hegel, and Marx. Throughout the course we will keep in mind some of the major ontological, epistemological, and ethical problems raised by those thinkers by looking at the answers Continental philosophers have provided to questions such as: What is truth? What is being? And what is the subject or self?

The majority of the contemporary portion of the course will focus on four major thinkers in the Continental tradition: Nietzsche, Heidegger, Foucault, and Deleuze. In addition to reading primary texts from those thinkers we will consider the following areas of Continental thought frequently associated with their work: Marxism, existentialism, psychoanalysis, phenomenology, and postmodernism. That survey will be completed through course lectures on or texts by the following authors: Freud, Husserl, Sartre, Levinas, Arendt, Merleau-Ponty, Irigaray, Derrida, Gramsci, Althusser, Lacan, Baudrillard, Lyotard, Guattari, and Zizek.

Finally, the course will be an opportunity for us to think about “Continental Philosophy” as a subdiscipline of academic philosophy. Throughout the semester we will ask: Does it have defining features? What methodologies does it use? And how is it distinct from or similar to other traditions in philosophy such as Anglo-American or Analytic philosophy?

## 1.3 Timetable

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 04:00PM-5:20PM. MCKN, Room 235

See schedule under section 5 “Teaching and Learning Activities”. The schedule is subject to change. Changes will be announced via email and in class.

## 1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam. See section 6 “Assessments” for details on the Research Paper due December 6 at 11:59PM.

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# 2 Instructional Support

## 2.1 Instructor(s)

**Kyle Novak**

**Email:**

knovak@uoguelph.ca

**Office:**

MCKN 367

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday + Thursday: 2:30PM-3:30PM

Also by appointment.

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# 3 Learning Resources

## 3.1 Required Resource(s)

**None (Other)**

All required resources will be available through the library or on ARES. Students may purchase and use their own copies of any of the required readings. Any students interested in doing so are welcome to contact to the instructor for recommendations on editions, translations, collections, etc.

## 3.2 Supplementary Material

Supplementary resources may be posted through Courselink or ARES throughout the semester. An email announcement will be made when resources become available.

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# 4 Learning Outcomes

## 4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. explain and critically evaluate major thinkers and themes in Continental Philosophy. Themes include psychoanalysis, phenomenology, poststructuralism, and postmodernism. Thinkers include Nietzsche, Heidegger, Foucault, and Deleuze among others.
  2. develop literacy skills through a close reading of assigned texts. Daily quizzes will be used to assess your literacy of information and concepts in the texts.
  3. reinforce written communication skills through daily writing assignments which will require you to interpret and critically evaluate texts.
  4. introduce research skills and the ability to construct a reasoned argument through writing a final paper that will ask you to integrate ideas introduced throughout the class in addition to external resources.
  5. build an understanding of the history of philosophy and the global impact of philosophical ideas through class lectures and writing assignments.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

See the schedule below for each class' reading and activities. The schedule is subject to changes or updates. These will be announced in class and through email.

### 5.1 Lecture

**Thu, Sep 6**

**Topic(s):** Introduction: Historical forerunners to the tradition  
Introductions, Syllabus, and Modern philosophy

**Reference(s):** Descartes: Meditations 1 and 2  
Spinoza Ethics Book 1 up to P15

Please review the course outline and readings before the first class meeting.

**Tue, Sep 11**

**Topic(s):** Introduction: Historical forerunners to the Tradition  
Kant, Hegel, and Marx

**Reference(s):** McCarthy, George "Development of the Concept and Method of Critique in Kant, Hegel, and Marx"

Journal 1  
Quiz 1

## Thu, Sep 13

**Topic(s):** Introduction: Historical forerunners to the Tradition Pt. 3  
Marx

**Reference(s):** Marx *Philosophical and Economic Manuscripts of 1844*  
"Estranged Labour" pp.28-35  
See also: Locke *Second Treatise of Government* Chp. 5:25-32

Journal 2

Quiz 2

Both are only on Marx. Look at Locke if you have time before class.

## Tue, Sep 18

**Topic(s):** Part 1: Nietzsche

**Reference(s):** Nietzsche "Truth and Lies in the Extramoral Sense" (pp. 114-123)

Journal 3

Quiz 3

(All readings are available through the library online in The Nietzsche Reader B3312.E5)

## Thu, Sep 20

**Topic(s):** Part 1: Nietzsche

**Reference(s):** Nietzsche Selection from *Gay Science* (pp. 219-237)

Journal 4

Quiz 4

(All readings are available through the library online in The Nietzsche Reader B3312.E5)

## Tue, Sep 25

**Topic(s):** Part 1: Nietzsche

**Reference(s):** Nietzsche Selection from *On the Genealogy of Morals* (pp. 390-407)

Journal 5

Quiz 5

(All readings are available through the library online in The Nietzsche Reader B3312.E5)

## Thu, Sep 27

**Topic(s):** Part 1: Nietzsche

**Reference(s):** Nietzsche Selection from *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 456-473)

Journal 6

Quiz 6

(All readings are available through the library online in The Nietzsche Reader B3312.E5)

**Tue, Oct 2**

**Topic(s):** Interlude: Introduction to Psychoanalysis and Phenomenology

**Reference(s):** Lapsley "Id, Ego, and Superego" and Cobb-Stevens "Husserl and his predecessors"

Journal 7

Quiz 7

Read both but **pick only one to write the journal on.**

**Thu, Oct 4**

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology

**Reference(s):** Heidegger *Being and Time* Introduction II: Section 7

Journal 8

Quiz 8

**Tue, Oct 9**

**Topic(s):** **NO CLASS!**

**Thu, Oct 11**

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology

**Reference(s):** Heidegger *Being and Time* Chapter III: Sections 14-18

Journal 9

Quiz 9

**Tue, Oct 16**

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology

**Reference(s):** Heidegger "The Origin of the Work of Art"

Journal 10

Quiz 10

**Thu, Oct 18**

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology

**Reference(s):** Heidegger The Question Concerning Technology

Journal 11

Quiz 11

## Tue, Oct 23

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology  
Phenomenology after Heidegger

**Reference(s):** We'll have a class vote on 10/11 to decide the reading for today. The choices are between the following authors: Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Emmanuel Levinas, Hannah Arendt, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, and Luce Irigaray

Journal 12  
Quiz 12

(The reading will be announced following the vote)

## Thu, Oct 25

**Topic(s):** Part 2: Heidegger and Phenomenology  
Derrida and Deconstruction

**Reference(s):** Derrida Signature, Event, Context

Journal 13  
Quiz 13

## Tue, Oct 30

**Topic(s):** Interlude II: Psychoanalysis continued and Marxism in the 20th century

20th Century Marxism

**Reference(s):** Bates "Gramsci and the Theory of Hegemony" and Althusser *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses*

Journal 14  
Quiz 14

Read both for the quiz but **pick only one to write your journal on**

## Thu, Nov 1

**Topic(s):** Interlude II: Psychoanalysis continued and Marxism in the 20th century

Zizek

**Reference(s):** No reading for today!  
In Class: Selections from *The Pervert's Guide to Cinema*

Journal 15 on the documentary is due 11/06  
Quiz 15 on the documentary at the end of class

## Tue, Nov 6

**Topic(s):** Part 3: Foucault

**Reference(s):** Foucault *Discipline and Punish* "The Body of the Condemned"

Journal 15 on *Pervert's Guide* due  
Journal 16  
Quiz 16

**Thu, Nov 8**

**Topic(s):** Part 3: Foucault

**Reference(s):** Foucault *Discipline and Punish* "Panopticon"

Journal 17  
Quiz 17

**Tue, Nov 13**

**Topic(s):** Part 4: Deleuze and Guattari

**Reference(s):** Deleuze *Societies of Control*

Journal 18  
Quiz 18

**Thu, Nov 15**

**Topic(s):** Part 4: Deleuze and Guattari

**Reference(s):** Deleuze and Guattari *Anti-Oedipus*: Chapter 1: Sections 1-3

Journal 19  
Quiz 19

**Tue, Nov 20**

**Topic(s):** Part 4: Deleuze and Guattari

**Reference(s):** Deleuze and Guattari *A Thousand Plateaus*: Rhizome

Journal 20  
Quiz 20

**Thu, Nov 22**

**Topic(s):** Part 4: Deleuze and Guattari

**Reference(s):** Deleuze and Guattari *What is Philosophy?*: Introduction

Journal 21  
Quiz 21

**Tue, Nov 27**

**Topic(s):** Finale: Postmodernism and the Tradition Today

**Reference(s):** Baudrillard Simulacra and Simulations

Journal 22

Quiz 22

**Thu, Nov 29**

**Topic(s):** Finale: Postmodernism and the Tradition Today

**Reference(s):** Today will be a chance to workshop your papers. If we have time I'll present on some current trends in Continental philosophy such as speculative realism, accelerationism, and posthumanism. A reading in one of those areas will be announced by 11/27 and you'll have the option to write an extra credit journal on it.

Journal 23 (Extra Credit)

No Quiz

## 6 Assessments

### 6.1 Assessment Details

#### Journal (50%)

**Date:** Tue, Sep 11 - Thu, Nov 29

Students will be graded on 20 journals. There are 22 journals assigned throughout the course which means each student can skip any two without losing marks. There will also be an extra-credit journal due the last day of class. Only the extra-credit journal will be awarded bonus points, which means that students will not receive extra marks if they write more than 20 of the normal journals. Journals should be submitted on Courselink before the start of class, but printed copies of journals will also be accepted if they are brought at the start of class. Late journals will not be accepted for any reason unless arrangements are made with Student Accessibility Services.

Journals will be given a grade of 1 (60%), 2 (75%), 3 (90%), or 4 (100%). The following rubric will be used to determine grades.

1 – At least one page double-spaced with Times New Roman 12pt font + contains a summary of the text + properly formatted (see example journal on Courselink for formatting instructions)

2 – All of the above + the reading is properly quoted at least once + summary addresses the argument and key concepts in the text + well edited for spelling and grammar



3—All of the above + critical voice is present + the main argument of the text is accurately summarized + includes a question or claim suitable for class discussion + makes connections to other themes or materials from the course.

4 –All of the above + makes a novel scholarly contribution to the literature.

### **Daily Quiz (20%)**

**Date:** Tue, Sep 11 - Tue, Nov 27

Students will be graded on 20 quizzes. There will be 22 quizzes done in class throughout the course which means each student can miss two quizzes without losing marks. If a student passes more than 20 quizzes then they will receive bonus points. Make-up quizzes will not be given for any reason. The only exception is if arrangements are made with Student Accessibility Services.

Each quiz will be pass/fail. Each quiz will consist of three basic question about the reading assigned for that day. To pass, students must answer at least two of the questions correctly.

### **Research Paper (30%)**

**Date:** Thu, Dec 6

The final paper should be 9-11 pages (typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font) and answer the question “What is truth?” using readings from the class as well as outside materials. It will be due on Courselink at 11:59PM on December 6. More details will be discussed in class and uploaded to Courselink later in the semester.

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## **7 Course Statements**

### **7.1 Grading Policies**

Missed quizzes or late journals will not be accepted. The only exception is for students who have made arrangements with Student Accessibility Services.

If a student believes they will be unable to complete the final paper by the deadline they should contact the instructor prior to the due date. Papers that are submitted late will lose 25% per 24 hour period past the deadline.

## **7.2 Course Policy on Group Work**

Students are encouraged to communicate with one another about readings and assignments. However, all writing for assignments must be done individually.

## **7.3 Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures**

*Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.*

## **7.4 Academic Misconduct**

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Arts. A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.

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# **8 University Statements**

## **8.1 Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

## 8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 8.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## 8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

## 8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

## 8.6 Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## **8.7 Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

## **8.8 Resources**

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

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