

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 3350 (01) – Selected Topics: Introduction to Phenomenology / Winter 2013

Instructor: Jeff Mitscherling
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Office Hours: Thursday 12:00–2:20 & by appointment
Class meets: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30–3:50, MACK 225

Brief Description of Course:

This course is intended as an introduction to phenomenology. After a brief review of the historical context and early ‘phenomenologists’ that gave rise to and informed the birth of Husserlian phenomenology, we’ll examine several ‘introductions’ to phenomenology that attempt to describe and clarify its basic principles and methodology. We’ll then turn to particular authors and the phenomenological analyses of central issues in psychology, logic, ontology, epistemology, aesthetics, and metaphysics. Several graduate students who are actively engaged in phenomenological research will participate as guest lecturers throughout the course, introducing to the class those central phenomenological issues with which they are involved in their own current research.

Required Texts:

All texts will be available online, on reserve in the library, or provided to the students by the instructor at cost. Readings will include selections from some of the following (as well as other texts):

Hegel: (Encyclopedia) *Logic*
Whitehead: *Process and Reality*
Husserl: *Logical Investigations, Lectures on Internal Time-Consciousness, Ideas*, 1917 Inaugural Lecture at Freiburg, 1927 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article
Heidegger: *Being and Time*
Merleau-Ponty: *Phenomenology of Perception*, ‘Eye and Mind’, ‘Cézanne’s Doubt’
Ingarden: *The Literary Work of Art, The Cognition of the Literary Work of Art, Ontology of Art*
Dufrenne: *The Phenomenology of Aesthetic Experience*

Method of Evaluation:

Three take-home exams, each totalling approximately 3,000 words [12-15 pp.] maximum, due on the following dates, worth the following:

Exam #1: The Historical Context & Early ‘Phenomenologists’; **due 5 February**; 25% of final mark

Exam #2: Introductions to Phenomenology; **due 5 March**; 25% of final mark

Exam #3: Phenomenological Analyses of Issues; **due 9 April**; 50% of final mark

Further instructions for the exams will be given in class.

Statements Regarding University Regulations:

E-mail Communication

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

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. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday 8 March**.

For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

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.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins 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. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

Schedule of classes and topics (24 class meetings)

The Historical Context & Early 'Phenomenologists' [class meetings 1– 6]

8 January	(1)	Introduction to the course and the material	[Jeff M.]
10 January	(2)	Comments on Modern and Contemporary Philosophy & Phenomenology	[Jeff M.]
15 January	(3)	Hegel: logic and phenomenology	[Daniel Griffin]
17 January	(4)	Hegel: the nature of cognition and the emergence of self-consciousness	[Daniel Griffin]
22 January	(5)	Whitehead: consciousness and the feeling of actual experience	[Pat McHugh]
24 January	(6)	Whitehead: consciousness, event, and process	[Pat McHugh]

Introductions to Phenomenology [class meetings 7 – 10]

29 January	(7)	Husserl 1917: 'Pure Phenomenology: Its Method and Its Field of Investigation'	[Jeff M.]
31 January	(8)	Husserl 1927: 'Phenomenology', <i>Encyclopaedia Britannica</i>	[Chris J.-Stevens]

[first take-home exam is due 5 February]

5 February	(9)	Fink 1939: 'The Problem of the Phenomenology of Edmund Husserl'	[Chris J.-Stevens]
7 February	(10)	Merleau-Ponty 1945: 'Preface', <i>Phenomenology of Perception</i>	[Jeff M.]

Phenomenological Analyses of Issues [class meetings 11 – 24]

12 February	(11)	Husserl: the reductions [1927 <i>EB</i> article]	[Chris J.-Stevens]
14 February	(12)	Husserl: fact and essence [<i>Ideas</i> I]	[Chris J.-Stevens]

[19 & 21 February = Winter Break]

26 February	(13)	Husserl: time and memory	[Chris J.-Stevens]
28 February	(14)	Heidegger: Being and existence [<i>Being and Time</i> , Introduction]	[Jeff M.]

[second take-home exam is due 5 March]

5 March	(15)	Heidegger: temporality and historicity	[Jeff M.]
7 March	(16)	Merleau-Ponty: phenomenology of perception	[Jeannette Hicks]
12 March	(17)	Merleau-Ponty: phenomenological aesthetics	[Jeannette Hicks]
14 March	(18)	Merleau-Ponty: phenomenological ontology and metaphysics	[Jeannette Hicks]
19 March	(19)	Ingarden: the ontological analysis of the work of art	[Chris Wood]
21 March	(20)	Ingarden: the epistemological analysis of the aesthetic experience	[Chris Wood]
26 March	(21)	Dufrenne: phenomenological analysis of the aesthetic experience	[Chris Wood]
28 March	(22)	Ingarden: formal ontology and phenomenological metaphysics	[Jeff M.]
2 April	(23)	Summary & review	
4 April	(24)	Summary & review	

[third take-home exam is due 9 April]