



Philosophy 820: Graduate Seminar

Topics in Continental Philosophy

Heidegger, *Being and Time*

Fall Semester 2008,
Michigan State University

Dr. Christian Lotz

Tentative Schedule (last **UPDATE**: November 03, 2009)

Number	Date	Topic	Reading	Protocol	Concept	Secondary
1	Aug 25	Introduction	Being and Time, §§1-4	Lotz		Sheehan
Introduction						
2	Sep 1	Labor Day	Labor Day			
3	Sep 8	Phenomenology	Being and Time, §§5-8	Schonover	Proctor (Destruction, §6)	Crowell
World						
4	Sep 15	Phenomenology	Being and Time, §§5-8	Wallace	Johnson (Phenomenon, §7) Brown (Logos, §7)	
5	Sep 22	Analytic of Existence	Being and Time, §§9-11	Stramondo	Harlow (Existentialia, §9) Vick (Anthropology, §10)	
6	Sep 29	Being-in-the-World	Being and Time, §§12-14	Guajardo Melendez	Caseldine-Bracht (Being-in, §12)	
7	Oct 6	Worldhood	Being and Time, §§15-18	Caseldine-Bracht	Schoonover (Knowing, §13) Melendez (Equipment, §15) Echterling (World, §14+18)	
Understanding						
	Oct 13	no class	no class			
8	Oct 20	The Other	Being and Time, §§25-27	Proctor	Stramondo (They, §27) Vick (Dasein-with, §26)	Schatzki
9	Oct 25 (at my place, 4pm)	Attunement	Being and Time, §§28-30	Brown Vick	Chamberlin (State-of-mind/disposedness/attunement, §28+29) Byrd (Fear, §30)	
10	Oct 27	Understanding	Being and Time, §§31-34	Johnson	Wallace (Understanding, §31) Guajardo (Interpretation, §32) Chamberlin (Assertion, §33)	Lafont
11	Nov 3	Discourse	Being and Time, §§35-38	Echterling Byrd	Brown (Discourse+ language, §34) Vick (Idle Talk, §35)	Brandom

12	Nov 10	Care and Angst	Being and Time, §§39-42	Chamberlin	Melendez (Curiosity, §36) Wallace (Care, §39) Guajardo (Angst, §40)
13	Nov 17	No class	No class		Proctor (Death, §49-50) Caseldine-Bracht (Authentic being-towards-death, §52-53) Echterling (Conscience, §54-60) Stramondo (Selfhood, §64) Johnson (Resoluteness, §62) Schonover (Care and time, §65-66) --> please send out by Nov 15

Responsibility - Retreat

	Nov 21-23	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat	
14	Fr 2pm-10pm	Being-towards-death	Being and Time, §§45-53			Mulhall
15	Sa 9am-10pm	Conscience and Resoluteness	Being and Time, §§54-60			Carman
16	Su 9am-12pm	Selfhood	Being and Time, §§61-66			Blattner, Hoffman
17	Nov 24	no class	no class	no class	no class	
18	Dec 1	no class	no class	no class	no class	
	Dec 8					Paper due
	Dec 10	Oral exams	Oral exams	Oral exams	Oral exams	

Class Meetings:

Days: M
Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm
Place: 530 South Kedzie

Office:

Phone: 517.353.9721 (if you are unable to reach me, please leave a message at 517.355.4490 [dept.])
Place: 507 S. Kedzie Hall
Hours: MW (1:00-2:00pm), by appointment and by phone

Exceptions:

Other Contact:

E-mail: lotz@msu.edu
Home Phone: 734.975.0803

Webpage

URL: <http://www.msu.edu/~lotz/classes>
(Please check the webpage *regularly* for the current schedule)

Box

You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (503 South Kedzie); you can also slip your assignments under my door if I am not in my office (507 South Kedzie)

Course Description

This seminar will be a close and phenomenological "Midwest" reading of Heidegger's *Being and Time*. Though Heidegger's text is too complex for a one semester seminar, we will try to go through all major paragraphs of the text, except the sections on time and historicity. It is expected that students *intensively* study the primary material and come *well* prepared to class. Given that this is a graduate seminar, I expect self-responsible learners in class.

Course Goals

It is hoped for that at the end of the class participants will be able to understand the main aspects of Heidegger's early masterwork

and that they understand its phenomenological perspective (which some commentators miss).

Guest Speaker

Prof. Marjolein Oele will give a talk on Heidegger and Aristotle on Thursday, Nov 20. Prof. Oele is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco with specializations in Ancient Philosophy and Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy (PhD, Loyola University Chicago). She also holds a Doctor of Medicine from the Free University, Amsterdam and a Master of Philosophy from the University of Amsterdam. For her dissertation *Aristotle on Pathos*, she was awarded the Schmitt Dissertation Fellowship in 2005. She has taught summer workshops for faculty in Mexico and served as a Teaching Assistant at the Free University in Amsterdam.

Texts

Heidegger, Martin, *Being and Time*, New York: Harper/Collins
Inwood, Michael, *Heidegger Dictionary*, Blackwell
Blattner, William, *A Reader's Guide to BT*, Continuum
Gelven, Michael, *A Commentary on BT*, Northern Illinois University Press

Several additional commentaries and excellent essay collections are available in the library; for example, *A Companion to Heidegger* (ed. Dreyfus) is available through MSU's library.

Online Tools

- Stanford Encyclopedia entry on [Phenomenology](#)
- [Ereignis](#): information about Heidegger's [Collected Works](#) and his writings
- Dreyfus's [lectures on Being and Time](#): mp3-files for your mp3-player (very helpful!!)
- Listen to Heidegger's lecture "Der Satz der Identität" [The Principle of Identity] (1957) online [here](#) (m4a format) - if you can understand German...
- There is a very nice [interview](#) with [Andrew Mitchell](#) (Emory University) on Stanford I-Tunes (you need iTunes)
- Helpful files from W. Blattner's course on Heidegger: [one](#), [two](#), [three](#)
- [Heidegger speaks](#) (YouTube with subtitles)
- [Heidegger on the future of philosophy](#) (do *not* watch this - the subtitles are totally incorrect)

Course Format

The course will be organized such that, ideally, each class period will include [i] "interactive" lecture, [ii] protocol discussion, class presentations [iii], and [iv] paper discussion. Students will be asked to study a certain text or part of a text for the next class period.

Protocol (German tradition)

The class protocol should cover our discussion in class. Protocols should have a length of 3 pages (around 900 words), and they will in and outside of the classroom force us to have *an ongoing reflection* on our texts that we study for class. They can also include problems or questions that the writers had either with our class discussion or with the texts itself, but above all protocols should cover what I lectured about in class and what we discussed afterwards. Protocols should clarify and discuss selected issues in question. Protocols have to be sent out to other students in class by email *on Saturdays by noon*. It is *your* responsibility to make sure that you received a protocol. I'll radically mark down late turn ins. The student who wrote the protocol will address questions during the first 20 minutes of the next class meeting, and he/she will lead the class discussion.

Concept Presentation

Every student must prepare 2 brief - precise - 2 page papers about a concept selected from the reading assignments (no longer than 900 words), which has to be sent out by email by Saturdays.

General Remark

Given that this is a *graduate* seminar, I expect self-motivation, autonomy, as well as self-responsibility. The attendance requires the willingness to intensively study the text selected for class.

Retreat

Nov 21-23, Colombiere Retreat Center

Class Paper

The class essay should be well researched and should present a substantial reflection on one of the key concepts that Heidegger develops in *Being and Time*, such as interpretation, phenomenology, existence, understanding, etc. I expect *excellent* papers in regard to research, form, and content. I will fail papers that do not comply with formal standards (footnotes, literature, etc.)

Paper Conference/Oral Examination

After you have turned in your paper we will discuss your paper in the form of an oral examination (30 minutes).

Course Evaluation

You will be evaluated on the basis of:

Protocol	pass/fail: 10 points
2 concept presentations	pass/fail: 10 points
Paper (12-15 pages)	70%: 70 points
1 oral exam	pass/fail: 10points

Grading:

4.0	100 - 93
3.5	92 - 87
3	86 - 82
2.5	81 - 77
2	76 - 72
1.5	71 - 65
1.0	64 - 60
0.0	< 60

GENERIC SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)

Class Attendance

I do not employ in my classes a class attendance policy. Having said this, you should be aware that class attendance is very important. When engaging in a philosophical and humanistic dialogue it is necessary to be an active and present participant in the ongoing discussion. If you miss class please do not email me asking if you missed anything important. Every class is important. You should get a study buddy for the class; a student in class who will inform you of what you missed. If you miss a class you can come to my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the material, providing you have read the material and you simply want to see if your understanding of the material is on target. Time in office hours will not be used to repeat the class lectures.

Grading Criteria

[Click here to see my grading criteria for oral presentations \(not required in this class\)](#)

[Click here to see my grading criteria for papers \(tentative\)](#)

[Click here to see an EXAMPLE of my grading criteria for essay exams \(taken from an older class\)](#)

Helpful information about oral presentations, paper writing and plagiarism

[Click here to find help on your presentations and your writing](#)

Online Research Sources

Unfortunately, some people think that the internet as such is a reliable source of information. If you decide to use online sources for additional information or your paper then do not just use one of the common internet search engines, such as Google; rather, use **reliable academic** sources, such as *Britannica Online*, or the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#). Here are other resources: [Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy](#) - [Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) - [Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy](#) (e-book) - [The Oxford Companion to Philosophy](#). The [Internet Eyclopedia of Philosophy](#) isn't very good, but still acceptable. Check out MSU's [library resources](#)! And, as with other sources, you must cite any online sources to which you refer in your essay.

Writing Center Information

MSU's writing center offers excellent help on all matters regarding writing and learning. Check the website at <http://writing.msu.edu> for an overview and hours. For more information, please call 517.432.3610 or send an e-mail to writing@msu.edu.

Plagiarism

In any essay or exam answer submitted for assessment, all passages taken from other people's work must be placed within quotation marks, with specific reference to author, title and page. *no excuse* can be accepted for any failure to do so, nor will inclusion of the source in a bibliography be considered inadequate acknowledgement. If the marker decides that plagiarism has occurred, the student may be judged to have failed the class.

Academic Honesty

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Also, you are not authorized to use the www.allmsu.com Web site to complete any course work in (insert course number here). Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html>)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY)

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Note on Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course

[Back to Homepage](#)