



**Graduate Seminar:**

**Intentionality and Beyond:  
From Husserl to Levinas**

**Spring 2012  
Michigan State University**

**Dr. Christian Lotz**

**Tentative Schedule (last UPDATE: March 22, 2012)**

NUMBER	DATE	TOPIC	REQUIRED READING	FOCUS	PROTOCOL	PRESENTATION	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>Introduction</b>							
1	Jan 12	Intentionality	Husserl, Logical Investigations, 5th Investigation, §§9-21	§§12-17			
<b>Husserl</b>							
2	Jan 19	Intentionality and horizon	Husserl, Ideas I, §§27-39	§§34-37	Alex		
3	Jan 26	Noesis and Noema, intentionality as an apriori act correlation	Husserl, Ideas I, §§76-86	§§84-86	Eric	John	
4	Feb 2	Intentionality in the perceptive sphere	Husserl, Analyses, §§1-4		John	Lila	
5	Feb 9	Intentionality in the perceptive sphere	Husserl, Analyses, §§1-4		4	Alex	
6	Feb 16	Time and association	Husserl, Analyses, §§26-35	§§26-29 + §32	Monika	Eric	
7	Feb 23	Expectation	Husserl, Analyses, §§35-41	§§40-41	Esme	5	
8	Mar 1	Intentionality and otherness	Husserl, 5th Cartesian Meditation	§§42-55	7	Andrea	
<b>Levinas</b>							
9	Mar 8	spring break	spring break	spring break	spring break	spring break	spring break
			Levinas, The Ruin of Representation;				

10	Mar 15	Levinas on Husserl, sensibility and proximity	Levinas, Intentionality and Sensation; Levinas, Language and Proximity (section 4+5); Levinas, Intentionality and Metaphysics	Andrea	Dan
11	Mar 22	no class	no class	no class	
12	Mar 29	Sensibility as living from	Levinas, Totality and Infinity, II.A-B	Lila	Esme
13	Apr 5	Sensibility and enjoyment, Dwelling	Levinas, Totality and Infinity, II.C-D	Dan	Andrew
14	Apr 12	Sensibility and the face, Patience	Levinas, Totality and Infinity, III.A-C	Andrew	
15	Apr 19	Eros, Levinas and Feminism	Levinas, Totality and Infinity, IV.A-D	13	Monika

**Derrida, extended seminar in Chelsea**

16	Apr 21, 1pm	Intentionality and hospitality	Derrida, Adieu, section I+II		12 + 13
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**Paper and exam**

Apr 30, 11:59pm

Paper due

May 3

Oral exams (paper conference)

**Class Meetings:**

Days: TH  
 Time: 7 PM - 10 PM  
 Place: 530 South Kedzie Hall

**Office:**

Phone: 517.355.4490 [dept.]  
 Place: 509 South Kedzie Hall  
 Hours: TBA

**Other Contact:**

E-mail: [lotz@msu.edu](mailto:lotz@msu.edu)  
 Home Phone: please ask  
 Webpage: <http://christianlotz.wordpress.com>

**Box**

You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (and in front of my office)

**Teaching Assistant:** no teaching assistants

**Course Description**

In this seminar we will closely read selected passages from Husserl's *Ideas I* and his *Cartesian Meditations*. In addition, we will read selected passages from Levinas' *Totality and Infinity* and Derrida's *Adieu*. We will especially focus on the relation between affectivity and intentionality, as this is the real "hinge" between Husserl and Levinas and determines their views of intersubjectivity.

**Course Goals**

Given the complexity of Husserl's and Levinas' work, it is impossible to discuss these thinkers as a whole. It is hoped for that we will get a clearer picture of Husserl's concept of intentionality and sensation, as well as of Levinas new conception of affectivity. Instead of simply discussing intersubjectivity, we will focus on topics that motivate the switch from Husserl to Levinas, namely the phenomenological description of sensibility.

**Required Texts**

You can make copies of selections that we discuss in class if you do not want to buy the editions (I will send around pdf-files)

- Husserl, Ideas I
- Husserl, Analyses
- Husserl, Cartesian Meditations
- Levinas, Totality and Infinity
- Levinas, Discovering Existence
- Derrida, Adieu

### Course Requirements

- 1 presentation/concept paper (1200 words)
- 1 protocol (600-900 words)
- 1 research paper, conference style (3000-4000 words)
- 1 oral exam (30 minutes)

### Protocol (German tradition)

The class protocol should cover our discussion in class. Protocols should have a length of 2-3 pages (around 600-900 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 by Tuesdays. I'll radically mark down late turn ins. The student who wrote the protocol will address questions during the first 15 minutes of the next class meeting, and he/she will lead the class discussion.

### Presentation

Each student will be responsible for one class and for working out an introductory presentation, which should function as a platform for our discussions. Please focus on one or two aspects of the reading; desired length of presentations: 20-30 minutes. Each presenter must distribute copies of his/her write-up by Tuesday before class (no more than 1200 words).

### 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.

### Research Paper

The class essay should be well researched and should present a substantial reflection on some parts of the material discussed in class. 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.). The research paper should be accompanied by an abstract of no more than 150 words.

### Weekend Seminar

We will meet in Chelsea at my place on April 22 for a special session on Derrida's *Adieu*.

### 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:

1 oral exam/paper conference	pass/fail - 10 points
1 presentation+concept paper (1500 words)	20 points
1 protocol (600-900 words)	pass/fail - 10 points
1 research paper, up to 4000 words, conference paper style	60 points
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	100 points

### Grading:

4.0 (=A) 100 - 93

3.5	92 - 87
3 (=B)	86 - 82
2.5	81 - 77
2 (=C)	76 - 72
1.5	71 - 65
1.0 (=D)	64 - 60
0.0	< 60

## **GENERIC SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)**

### **Class Attendance**

As mentioned above, 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**

Check out [this page for grading criteria, example of assignments, etc.](#)

### **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](#). 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](mailto:writing@msu.edu).

### **Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Plagiarism)**

The following statement of University policy addresses principles and procedures to be used in instances of academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records, herein after referred to as academic misconduct. [See General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades.]: [download document](#) (pdf)

### **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](http://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. 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.

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