

HUMA 6003D: PHENOMENOLOGY
HEIDEGGER, PHENOMENOLOGY, AND INTERCULTURAL PHILOSOPHY

Spring Semester 2018 (Feb. 7 – May 9, 2018)

Course Instructor: Eric S. NELSON (埃里克·尼爾森)
Time: Wednesdays 15:00-17:50
Class Room: 5562
Language: English
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-14:30; and by appointment.
My Office: 2370

Course Description

This course introduces students to phenomenology by examining aspects of the philosophical journey of Martin Heidegger in a critical and intercultural perspective. We will trace moments in Heidegger’s path from (1) the groundbreaking project of a hermeneutical phenomenology in his early magnum opus *Being and Time* (*Sein und Zeit*), originally published in 1927, to (2) his later Postwar encounters with and reflections on facets of East Asian philosophy (Laozi, Zhuangzi, Zen and Japanese philosophy) in light of his later thinking of the event and history of being.

We will be exploring the internal significance, historical contexts, and continuing philosophical relevance of Heidegger’s posing of the question of being and analytic of human existence as “being-there” in *Being and Time* in the first half of the semester, and focus on the scope, limits, and possibilities of Heidegger’s encounter with East Asian forms of thought and its significance for contemporary intercultural philosophy in the second half of the course.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1	Phenomenologically, critically, and interculturally analyze and assess the forms and styles of philosophical interpretation and argumentation presented in the course readings.
2	Develop a well-informed approach to questions concerning Heidegger’s interpretive and argumentative strategies.

3	Interpret the role and significance of Heidegger's works from different philosophical and intercultural perspectives.
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Course Outline

Schedule		
1.	Feb. 7	Introduction to the Course, Phenomenology, and Heidegger's Question of Being. Introductory interpretation of <i>Being and Time</i> , sections 1 and 7
I. Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i>		
2.	Feb. 14	Being, Ontology, and Phenomenology: The Question of Being and the Question of Being-There Reading: BT, sections 1-8
3.	Feb. 21	Dasein and Being-in-the-World Reading: BT, sections 9-17
4.	Feb. 28	Spatiality and the Who of Dasein Reading: BT, sections 22-27
5.	March 7	Being-in: Anxiety, Falling, and Thrownness Reading: BT, sections 28-38
6.	March 14	Care, Truth, Disclosure Reading: BT, sections 39-44
7.	March 21	Being and being-towards-death Reading: BT, sections 45-53
	Sunday March 25 3 – 5 pm	Additional recommended lecture: Professor Eric S Nelson, <i>Zhang Junmai and the Question of Chinese Modernity</i> Venue: Lecture Hall, G/F, Hong Kong Museum of History
8.	March 28	Conscience, Resoluteness, and Authenticity Reading: BT, sections 54-66
	April 3	First research paper on <i>Being and Time</i> due on canvas!
	April 4	No class: Mid-Term Break
II. Heidegger's Thinking of Being and Intercultural Philosophy		

9.	April 11	Heidegger and Laozi I: The Question of the Nothing Readings: Heidegger, “What is Metaphysics?” Laozi, <i>Daodejing</i> , chapter 11
10.	April 18	No Class / Online Lecture on Phenomenology, Buddhism, Eurocentrism Eric S. Nelson, “Husserl and Heidegger: Phenomenology, Eurocentrism, and Buddhism”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSR2dtYfQfQ (Full print version: chapter six of Eric S. Nelson, <i>Chinese and Buddhist Philosophy in Early Twentieth-Century German Thought</i> (London: Bloomsbury, 2017). Reading: Selection from Heidegger’s “Spiegel Interview”
11.	April 25	Heidegger and Laozi II: On Emptiness and the Thing Readings: Heidegger on the Thing Laozi, <i>Daodejing</i> , chapter 4
12	May 2	Heidegger and Zhuangzi: Usefulness and Uselessness Readings: Heidegger, “An Evening Conversation” Selections from the <i>Zhuangzi</i> , chapters 1, 4, 8, and 26.
13.	May 9	Heidegger and Japan: Is Intercultural Understanding Possible? Readings: Heidegger, “A Dialogue on Language between a Japanese and an Inquirer”
MAY 23		SECOND RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON CANVAS!

Planned Assessment Tasks

1.	35%	1st Paper (7-8 pages) is due on April 3 . Turn in your paper on canvas. Task: Describe and interpret and aspect of <i>Being and Time</i> .
2.	35%	2nd Paper (7-8 pages) is due on May 23 . Turn in your paper on canvas. Task: Interpret an aspect of Heidegger’s thinking in relation to an East Asian philosophical author or source.

3.	15%	Attendance and Participation in class discussion.
4.	15%	Short in-class individual and group writing assignments.

Please Note:

1. Class Attendance and Participation

1.1: Attendance will be taken at random throughout the semester. Every three classes missed will lower the attendance grade by one letter grade.

1.2: Students should actively participate in class discussion and online canvas discussions each week.

2. Paper Assignments

2.1 NO PLAGIARISM POLICY: The discovery of cheating on any in-class quiz or writing assignment will result in automatically failing the course, and will be reported to the university administration.

2.2 A paper on *Being and Time* is due on April 3 and a paper on Heidegger’s later thinking and East Asian philosophy is due on May 23, 2019.

3.1 Required Readings

1. Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time: A Revised Edition of the Stambaugh Translation* (Albany: SUNY 2010).
2. Select Readings from Heidegger’s Works.

3.2: Supplementary Readings

3. Martin Heidegger, *Sein und Zeit* (Tübingen: Niemeyer, 2006).
4. Eric S. Nelson, *Chinese and Buddhist Philosophy in Early Twentieth-Century German Thought* (London: Bloomsbury, 2017).

4. Internet Resources on Writing about Philosophy

Twenty “Rules for History of Philosophy”:

<http://historyofphilosophy.net/rules-history-philosophy%20>

A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Paper:

http://philosophy.fas.harvard.edu/files/phildept/files/brief_guide_to_writing_philosophy_paper.pdf

Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>