Topics in 20th-c. Philosophy: Heidegger and Politics

Course number PHIL-44B/547
Prerequisite for this course: 6 cr. In PHIL, 3 of which at the 200-level or Consent of the Department
Winter 2010 – Monday 6:00-9:00 p.m. in CAB 365

Instructor: Prof. Marie-Eve Morin
Office Hour: Tuesday 1-3 pm or by appointment
Office: ASH 3-45 Phone: 492-3307
E-mail: mmorin1@ualberta.ca

• Course Description:
In light of the renewed controversies surrounding Heidegger’s political engagement, the topic of the seminar will be “Heidegger and Politics”. Our interest will not be in Heidegger the man, what he did and did not do, what he said and did not say, etc. Instead, we will read key philosophical texts from different periods of Heidegger’s thought and try to understand them on their own terms and tease out their political implications. We will focus on 1) Heidegger’s understanding of community (both authentic and inauthentic) and historicity as they are developed from 1927 through the rectorate and post-rectorate period; 2) his understanding of metaphysics and modern technology and on the possible overcoming of metaphysics; 3) and his reading of Antigone’s chorus and his understanding of the Greek polis. The goal of the seminar is twofold: it will serve as an introduction to Heidegger’s thinking and hopefully along the way allow you to develop an enlightened position on the relation of Heidegger’s thought to Nazism.

• Required Texts:
- Rectoral Address (1933) and Letter to the Rector (1945), available in R. Wolin (ed), The Heidegger Controversy. On eClass.
- Logic as the Question Concerning the Essence of Language (1934). Available at SUBtitles.
- "Nietzsche's Word 'God is Dead'" (1943), in Off the Beaten Track. On eClass.
- Hölderlin's Hymn "The Ister". Available at SUBtitles.

• Assignments and Grades:
  • Response Paper (8 x 5% = 40%); Final Paper (40%); Oral Examination (20%)

1. Response Papers (5% each)
Every week, you will get a chance to write a response “paper” on the reading. I will provide you with a topic, normally a key sentence or a set of terms that are central to the reading of the week. The goal is to help you acquire a basic understanding and start engaging with the readings prior to the lecture. Your response should provide an explanation of the key terms and relate them to each other so as to tease out the main point made by Heidegger in the section at hand. Make sure you explain each concept clearly, provide a definition in your own words, give examples, etc. Imagine you are teaching the class and explaining the concepts to students who have not read the text. Each response should be ½ to one page single-spaced (~500 words). I will not accept responses that are over 1-page long. Responses are due at the beginning of each class. No extensions will be granted. You have to write 8 responses during the term, no extra topic will be provided at the end of the term if you haven’t reached your quota.
2. Final Paper (40%)
The final paper will be due on the last day of class and should be ~10 pages (maximum 15 pages). I will give you a list of potential topics, which you will have to narrow down and articulate for yourself. You can also choose your own topic as long as you have it approved by me. Students registered in PHIL 547 are expected to write a slightly longer paper (~15 pages, maximum 20 pages) addressing a more complex issue in more depth.

3. Oral Examination (20%)
The oral examination will take place during the last week of exams (probably on Tuesday April 26 and Wednesday April 27). Each student will be examined individually for ~ 20-25 minutes. You will receive a set of 8 to 10 questions, divided into two groups, to prepare beforehand. 30 minutes before your exam, I will tell you which 2 questions you will have to discuss with me. No books, no notes! A more detailed handout telling you how to prepare for the exam will be handed out in the last class.

• Extensions & Late Papers:
An extension for a final paper can only be granted for serious reasons and if you contact me before the due time. Late papers for which no extension have been granted will be penalized 4% (or one letter grade) for every day (24 hours) they are late. No extensions will be granted for Response Papers! If you can't make it to class, e-mail me your assignment before the deadline.

• Submission of Assignments:
You can submit your papers in class, in my mailbox in the Department Office ASH 2-40 during regular hours. I will only accept response paper by email if you are sick and cannot make it to class. Don't slip any assignment under my door since I will not know when it got there.

• eClass:
To access eClass, click on the link on the University webpage and type in your username and password. On eClass you can (among other things):
- post comments and questions on the course or on the readings
- consult posts on secondary readings, articles or web pages
- get a copy of any handout (including this syllabus and the reading schedule)
- consult the course calendar for deadlines
- check for announcements made in class
- e-mail students in the class
- check your unofficial grades

Grading Scale:
you will be graded by letters, numbers are only there to facilitate calculating your final grade)

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>≥ 92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥ 88-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>≥ 84-88</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>≥ 76-80</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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- **Academic Integrity:**
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standard of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (available online at www.ualberta.ca/secretariat/appeals.htm) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

In particular, note that “No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study” (Code of Student Behaviour, §30.3.2(1)). **This applies to all information you find on the internet, whether it is signed by its author or anonymous.** Note also that “No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere” (Code of Student Behaviour, §30.3.2(2)d).
### Somewhat More Realistic Reading Schedule for PHIL 448/547 — Winter 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Topics/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Introduction to Heidegger and Politics</td>
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| 17 | Introduction to Being and Time: Being, Dasein, Being-with  
   Read: Being and Time §§1, 5-7, 9, 12-13, 15  
   Jan. 21 Winter registration Deadline: Last day to add or drop courses |
| 24 | The They, Falling and Thrownness  
   Read: Being and Time §§25-27, 35-38, 40 |
| 31 | Being-toward-death, Resoluteness  
   Read: Being and Time §§ 47, 50-53, 60, 62, 64 |
| Feb. 7 | Historicity, Fate and Destiny  
   Read: Being and Time §§72-75  
   Supplement: Jean-Luc Nancy, The Being-With of Being-There (on eClass) |
| 14 | Self-Assertion of the German University  
   Read: Rectoral Address and Letter to the Rector (in R. Wolin)  
   Supplement: Letters between Heidegger and Marcuse (on eClass) |
| 21 | READING WEEK |
| 28 | Self, I, We, People, Historicity  
   Read: Logic as the Question Concerning the Essence of Language Time §§10-21 |
| Mar. 7 | Becoming-Historical, Language  
   Read: Logic as the Question Concerning the Essence of Language Time §§22-24, 27-31 |
| 14 | Overcoming Metaphysics  
   Read: Overcoming Metaphysics (in The End of Philosophy)  
   Supplement: Nietzsche’s Word God is Dead (in Off The Beaten Track)  
   March 18: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty (W) |
| 21 | Overcoming Metaphysics (cont.)  
   Catch up!! |
| 28 | Antigone and the Human as the Uncanny  
   Read: Hölderlin's Hymn "The Ister" §§10-15  
   Supplement: Introduction to Metaphysics §§45-56 |
| Apr. 4 | Antigone and the Polis  
   Read: Hölderlin's Hymn "The Ister" §§15-20 |
| 11 | Wrap-up and Exam Review |