

PHIL4272
Phenomenology 現象學

Course Outline

Time : M 12:30pm-3:15pm

Location: LHCG04

Course overview

This course will introduce you to one of the most important philosophical movements in contemporary philosophy. We will zero in on the works of the founder of the phenomenological movement – Edmund Husserl. The course is split into two parts. In the first part, we will investigate the lasting significance of Husserlian phenomenology by paying close attention to Husserl’s *Ideas*, the first volume of which was published exactly one hundred years ago (1913). In the second part, we will explore the development of Husserl’s phenomenology and address some of the central themes in Husserl’s last and unfinished work, *The Crisis of European Sciences*. Discussion will focus on such fundamental phenomenological themes as intentionality and transcendental consciousness, *epoche* and the reduction(s), constitution and the life-world.

Learning outcomes

1. Obtain familiarity with the central themes and concepts in Husserl’s phenomenology.
2. Learn how to understand and evaluate phenomenological claims, employed by Husserl and by a number of philosophers who have been inspired by him.
3. Develop critical and exegetical skills by means of reading and interpreting Husserl’s works.
4. Obtain the basis to further explore the central phenomenological themes as addressed in the writings of post-Husserlian philosophy.
5. Improve your skills of presenting philosophical arguments in written and oral form.
6. Learn how to adopt a philosophical attitude as a form of resistance to various forms of dogmatism.

Topics

I. Introduction

1. Husserl and the Phenomenological Movement

II. Ideas I: The Fundamental Phenomenological Outlook

2. The Natural Attitude
3. *Epoche* and the Reductions
4. Structures of Pure Consciousness

III. Ideas II: The Personalistic and the Naturalistic Attitudes

5. Personalistic Attitude
6. Naturalistic Attitude
7. The Natural and the Naturalistic World

IV. The Crisis: The Sciences, History, and the Life-world

8. The Crisis of the Sciences
9. The Life-World
10. Transcendental Subjectivity

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (final essay and reflective summaries of the readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials and participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

Lecture: 2 hours each week

Tutorial: five meetings, each two hours long.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

1. Reading: Around 3 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.
2. Writing Assignments: About an hour each week on preparing and writing essay assignments throughout the term. You should try to design a schedule that allows you to apportion more time on writing and discussing your essay with your teacher two to three weeks before the first and the second essays are due.
3. Tutorial presentation: Around five hours before you make the presentation.

Assessment scheme

Since a major aim of this course is to develop your ability to interpret, analyze, and generate philosophical arguments through discussion and writing, the assessment methods are designed to encourage participation and learning through argumentative writing.

Task nature	Description	Weight
Tutorial Presentation	Formal Presentation	20%
Participation	Discussion	20%
One Reflective Summary	Around 500 words	10%
Final Essay	Around 2500-3000 words	50%

Remarks:

1. Tutorial presentation: You will need to make a formal 15 minute-long presentation on an assigned topic.
2. You will also need to participate actively in the Q/A sessions during the tutorials. Your active participation will also be required in the lectures. *Absence will damage your grades.*
3. Reflective Summary: Your task is to submit one single-spaced typewritten page. You are supposed to a) provide a 1-2 paragraph long summary of the assigned readings, b) identify what you consider to be the weakest part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (one paragraph), c) identify what you consider to be the strongest part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (1 paragraph), d) come up with some good questions for discussion in class. Your critical summary should be approximately 500 words long.
4. The term paper: You may choose to write on any philosophical problem addressed in this course. You will be asked to submit a preliminary statement on a chosen topic on the last day of class. You will be expected to do some independent research, to formulate a central thesis as well as to develop arguments in support of it. Your final paper is due no later than 8 PM, December 15th.

Recommended learning resources

Required Texts:

1. Edmund Husserl, *Ideas: General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology*. London: Routledge Classics, 2012.
2. Edmund Husserl, *Ideas Pertaining to Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy. Second Book. Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution*. Springer, 2008.
3. Edmund Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology: An Introduction to Phenomenological Philosophy*.
4. Edmund Husserl, *The Idea of Phenomenology*. Springer, 1980.

Other Texts by Husserl:

5. Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations: An Introduction to Phenomenology*. Martinus Nijhoff, 1977.
6. Edmund Husserl, *The Paris Lectures*. Kluwer Publishers, 1998.

Commentaries:

7. Dan Zahavi, *Husserl's Phenomenology*. Stanford University Press, 2003.
8. Robert Sokolowski, *Introduction to Phenomenology*. Cambridge University Press, 1999.
9. Dermot Moran, *Introduction to Phenomenology*. London: Routledge, 2000.
10. R.O. Elveton, ed., *The Phenomenology of Husserl: Selected Critical Readings*. Noesis Press: 2003.
11. Paul Ricoeur, *Husserl: An Analysis of His Phenomenology*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1967.
12. J.N. Mohanty, *The Philosophy of Edmund Husserl*. Yale University Press, 2008.

Feedback for evaluation

1. You are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with professor or tutors.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, you will evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback that you will be able to provide to your teacher. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>
Jan 11	Introduction	
Jan 18	The Natural Attitude And <i>Epoche</i>	<i>Ideas I</i> , 51-74
Jan 25	Natural Reality and Pure Consciousness	<i>Ideas I</i> , 74-97
Feb 1	Phenomenological Reductions	<i>Ideas I</i> , 97-119
Feb 15	Personalistic and Naturalistic Attitudes	<i>Ideas II</i> , 181-200
Feb 22	Nature and Spirit	<i>Ideas II</i> , 200-222
Feb 29	The Crisis of the Sciences	<i>Crisis</i> , 3-18; 21-34
March 7	Husserl's Critique of Modernity	<i>Crisis</i> , 48-73
March 14	Husserl's Critique of Kant	<i>Crisis</i> , 103-123
March 21	The Life-World	<i>Crisis</i> , 123-148
April 11	The New Way to the Reduction	<i>Crisis</i> , 148-167
April 18	The Paradox of Subjectivity	<i>Crisis</i> , 168-189

* This course schedule is tentative and it might be modified with the aim of adapting it to your intellectual interests and needs.

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Professor	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed [declaration](#) that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.