

**PHIL4532**  
**Husserl's *Crisis***  
**Course Outline**

**Time: Mondays 13:30-16:15**

**Location: ERB 703**

**Course overview**

Phenomenology is one of the most influential philosophical traditions of the last century, and Edmund Husserl—the founder of this tradition—is one of its most outstanding spokespersons. It is not possible to gain a solid understanding of other central figures in the Continental philosophy of the twentieth century (such as Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, Gadamer, Ricoeur, Levinas, and Derrida, to mention a few), without familiarizing oneself with the basic problems of Husserl's phenomenology. This course will introduce you to phenomenology through a careful study of Husserl's *Crisis of the European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*, which is considered to be one of his most important works. At the end of this course, you will not only have a grasp of the fundamental methods and themes characteristic of Husserl's phenomenology, but also gain a necessary basis to address other philosophical traditions that fall under the heading of Continental philosophy. Our discussions 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. Philosophy and Crisis

2. The Concept of the Crisis
3. Crisis and Phenomenology

III. Modern Science and the Mathematization of Nature

4. The Case of Galileo
5. Method and Ontology

IV. The Problem of the Lifeworld

6. The Science of the Lifeworld
7. The Ontology of the Lifeworld

V. Reduction and Subjectivity

8. Epoché and the Reduction
9. Transcendental Subjectivity
10. Psychology and Phenomenology

## 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 summary of the readings);
- attend the lectures and participate in discussion;
- make a presentation on assigned readings (there will be group presentations)

### *Activities and workload:*

In-class (mandatory):

Lecture: 2,5 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 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Group Presentation                 | Formal Presentation    | 15%    |
| Participation in Class Discussions | Discussion             | 15%    |
| One Reflective Summary             | Around 1000-1500 words | 20%    |
| Final Essay                        | Around 2000-2500 words | 50%    |

Remarks:

1. Group presentation: As a member of a group of 3-4 students, you will need to make a formal presentation. Each group presentation should be around 20 minutes long. After the presentation, you will need to answer the questions that your peers will raise. Further details will be provided in class.
2. I will expect your active participation in class discussions. *Absence will damage your grades.*
3. Reflective Summary: It should be approximately two-three single-spaced typewritten pages. 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 1000-1500 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 paper should be approximately 2500 words long.

## Recommended learning resources

### Required Text:

1. Edmund Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology: An Introduction to Phenomenological Philosophy*.

### Other Texts by Husserl:

2. Edmund Husserl, *Ideas: General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology*. London: Routledge Classics, 2012.

3. Edmund Husserl, *Ideas Pertaining to Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy. Second Book. Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution*. Springer, 2008.

4. Edmund Husserl, *The Idea of Phenomenology*. Springer, 1980.

5. Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations: An Introduction to Phenomenology*. Martinus Nijhoff, 1977.

6. Edmund Husserl, *The Paris Lectures*. Kluwer Publishers, 1998.

### Commentaries on Husserl's Phenomenology

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.

### Commentaries on Husserl's Crisis:

13. James Dodd, *Crisis and Reflection: An Essay on Husserl's Crisis of the European Sciences*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2005.

14. Dermot Moran, *Husserl's Crisis of the European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*. Cambridge UP: 2012.

15. D. Hyder and H-J Rheinberger (eds.). *Science and the Lifeworld: Essays on Husserl's Crisis of the European Sciences*. Stanford: Stanford UP, 2010.

## Feedback for evaluation

1. You are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with the professor.
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. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

## Course schedule

| <i>Date</i>  | <i>Topics</i>                                 | <i>Required reading</i>     | <i>Schedule of Group Presentations</i> |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| September 4  | Introduction                                  |                             |  |
| September 11 | The Concept of the Crisis                     | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 2-28    |  |
| September 18 | Galileo and the Mathematization of Nature     | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 28-60   |  |
| September 25 | Objectivism and Transcendentalism             | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 60-82   |  |
| October 2    | No class                                      |                             |  |
| October 9    | Empiricism and the Birth of Transcendentalism | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 82-111  | Group presentation (1)                 |
| October 16   | The Science of the Lifeworld                  | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 111-135 | Group presentation (2)                 |
| October 23   | <i>Epoche</i> and the Reductions              | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 135-159 | Group presentation (3)                 |

|             |   |                             |                        |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| October 30  | The Ontology of the Lifeworld               | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 159-178 | Group presentation (4) |
| November 6  | The Paradox of Subjectivity                 | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 178-198 | Group presentation (5) |
| November 13 | The Way to Phenomenology Through Psychology | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 198-219 | Group presentation (6) |
| November 20 | Dualism and the Psychological Reduction     | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 219-241 | Group presentation (7) |
| November 27 | Pure Phenomenology and Self-Knowledge       | <i>Crisis</i> , pp. 241-265 | Group presentation (8) |

\* 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.

#### Professor's Contact Details

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|------------------|----------------------|
| Professor        |                      |
| Name:            | GENIUSAS Saulius     |
| Office location: | 432 FKH              |
| Telephone:       | 39437147             |
| Email:           | geniusas@cuhk.edu.hk |

#### 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.