

2nd Semester 2017/18

PHI 5360 Seminar on Contemporary European Philosophy: Heidegger's *Being and Time*

Prof. Cheung Chan Fai: cheung.chanfai@gmail.com

**PHI 5360 Seminar on Contemporary Philosophy:
Heidegger's *Being and Time***

Martin Heidegger's *Sein und Zeit* 1927 (Being and Time) is one of the most important philosophical treatises in the 20th century. This is indeed a very difficult book. This course aims at an introduction to Heidegger's early formulation of the *Seinsfrage* (Question of Being) and the existential analysis of Dasein through a detailed study of selected chapters of this book. The Marburg Lectures and the some of the earlier essays before the writing of *Being and Time* will also be the texts of this course.

S.J. McGrath:

"If in this book I take the trouble to point out something essentially wrong with Heidegger's philosophy, it is only because there is so much that is right about it. Heidegger's phenomenological ontology was, in my view, the most vital philosophical development of the early twentieth century, an upsurge of philosophical eros in an era of bland positivism and dreary, inhuman reductionism. Heidegger set the tone for the way of proceeding with philosophy in the wake of the collapse of the great modern systems and the conquest of the natural scientific reduction of the human being. His critique of calculative thinking touched the nerve of modernity's obsessive-compulsive relationship with techno-science. His elucidation of the difference between the being of the human being (Dasein) and the being of everything else, perhaps his most lasting contribution, showed us, for the first time, how the tradition from Aristotle through Hegel defined the human being in terms borrowed from other beings: as a substance, or in its more modern variation, a subject – in both cases something with objectifiable properties. Heidegger was the first to point out that the existing individual has no properties because, unlike physical objects, it never exists as merely present and available for categorical dissection."

Heidegger, a (very) critical introduction. 2008. p. 1.

THREE Tutorials will be arranged during this semester. Details will be announced at the first lecture.

Tentative Course Outline:

1. Introduction: "Why is there anything at all rather than nothing?"
"The Concept of Time" (1924)
2. The Question of "Being" "and" "Time: § 1-4
3. Phenomenology: § 7
4. Analytic of Dasein: § 9-11
5. Being-in-the-world: § 12-13
6. The World and the Worldhood: § 14-18
7. The They: § 25-27
8. Being-in:
 - a) State-of-mind: § 29-30
 - b) Understanding: § 31-33
 - c) Discourse: § 34
9. The Being of Dasein: Care: § 39-41
10. Disclosedness and Truth: § 44
11. Being-towards-death: Phenomenology of Dying: § 46-53
12. Beyond "*Being and Time*"

Assessment:

Tutorial presentation and discussion: 30%

Essay 70%