

**PHI 5360 and PHIL7360 Seminar on Contemporary Philosophy:
Heidegger's *Being and Time***

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(This email address is exclusively for this course, for all questions and enquiry about this course, please use this email.)

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.

For all the beginners in Heidegger's thought, this course will only serve as a first guideline to the wealth of his philosophy. It is certainly impossible to give a comprehensive introduction, this course should be regarded as one "Sign post" (*Wegmarken*).of this philosophical journey.

"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."

S.J. McGrath. *Heidegger, a (very) critical introduction*. 2008. p. 1.

On one level, the aim of this book (*The New Heidegger*) is quite simple: it is to give a sense of the magnitude of the philosophical earthquake that Heidegger's thought represents. Also – and as an immediate consequence – it is an attempt to communicate the excitement that so many of us have felt and continue to feel whenever we discover a new lecture course, a new text by Heidegger or when we open *Being and Time* for the thousandth time. I hope to communicate the significance of this earthquake, this vertigo to anyone who has a minimal knowledge of the history of philosophy (or perhaps not even). No prior knowledge of Heidegger is required. Heidegger is a notoriously difficult thinker (all thinkers are, in my view), not least because of his experimental use of the German idiom, which is a direct expression of the novelty of his thought. These difficulties are often intensified when translated into a different idiom, such as English.

Miguel de Beistegui. *The New Heidegger*. 2005. P. 1

This is a text-based discussion seminar course, with 3 extra tutorials

Students should have a copy of Heidegger's *Being and Time* (English translation by John Macquarrie) at hand.

Supplementary texts and reference readings will be provided by the teacher online.

Because of the pandemic, this seminar will be conducted online per ZOOM. If condition allows, face to face teaching will be resumed.

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. Analytic of Dasein: § 9-11
4. Being-in-the-world: § 12-13
5. The World and the Worldhood: § 14-18
6. The They: § 25-27
7. Being-in:
 - a) State-of-mind: § 29-30
 - b) Understanding: § 31-33
 - c) Discourse: § 34
8. The Being of Dasein: Care: § 39-41
9. Disclosedness and Truth: § 44
10. Being-towards-death: Phenomenology of Dying: § 46-53
11. Beyond "*Being and Time*"

(Supplementary classes will be expected after the normal semester term)

THREE Tutorials will be arranged during this semester, on Tuesday evenings and/or Saturday outside normal lecture hours. Details will be announced at the first lecture.

Tutor: Dr. Jackie Tai

Assessment:

Tutorial presentation and discussion: 40%

(For those who cannot take tutorial and discussion, a mid-term paper will be replaced)

Final term paper: 60%

Texts:

Martin Heidegger's Works

Sein und Zeit. 13.ed. Tuebingen: Max Niemeyer, 1976

Being and Time

- 1) Trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson. New York: Harper and Row, 1962.
- 2) Trans. John Stambaugh. Albany, N.Y.: SUNY, 1996.
- 3) 《存在與時間》陳嘉映，王慶節合譯，北京：三聯書店，1987，2000 (修訂版)

Supplements: From the Earliest Essays to Being and Time and Beyond. Ed. John van Buren. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2002

Becoming Heidegger: On the Trail of His Early Occasional Writing, 1910-1927. ed. Theodore Kisiel and Thomas Sheehan, Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2007.

The Concept of Time. Trans. William McNeil. Oxford: Blackwell, 1992.

Ontology – The Hermeneutics of Facticity. Trans. John van Buren. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999.

Commentary:

1. Dreyfus, Hubert. *Being-in-the-World*. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1991.
2. Kaelin, E. F. *Heidegger's Being and Time: a Reading for Readers*. Tallahassee: The Florida State University Press, 1987.
3. King, Magda. *A Guide to Heidegger's Being and Time*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001.
4. Kockelmans, Joseph. *Heidegger's "Being and Time"*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1989.
5. Wrathall, Mark A ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger's Being and Time*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013

General References:

6. Biemel, Walter. *Martin Heidegger: An Illustrated Study*. Trans. J.L. Mehta, London: Routledge, 1977.
10. Kisiel, Theodore. *The Genesis of Heidegger's Being and Time*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.
11. Kisiel, Theodore and van Buren, John ed. *Reading Heidegger from the Start: Essays in His Earliest Thought*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994
12. Richardson, William J. *Heidegger: Through Phenomenology to Thought*. 2nd Edition. New York: Fordham University Press, 2003.
13. Sheehan, Thomas ed. *Heidegger: The Man and the Thinker*. Chicago: Precedent Publishing, 1981.

Most Recent General Introductions to *Being and Time*

1. Beistegui, Miguel de. *The New Heidegger*. London; New York: Continuum, 2005.
2. Blattner, William. *Heidegger's Being and Time*. London: Continuum, 2006.
3. Carman, Taylor. *Heidegger's Analytic: Interpretation, Discourse, and Authenticity in Being and Time*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003
4. Cerbone, David R. *Heidegger: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Continuum, 2008.
5. Clark, Timothy. *Martin Heidegger*. London: Routledge, 2002.

2nd Semester 2020/21

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6. Davis, Bret W. ed. *Martin Heidegger: Key Concepts*, Oxford: Routledge 2010
7. Gerner, Paul. *Heidegger's Being and Time: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.
8. Harman, Graham. *Heidegger Explained: From Phenomenon to Thing*. Chicago: Open Court, 2007.
9. Inwood, Michael. *Heidegger: A very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
10. McDonough, Richard M. *Martin Heidegger's Being and Time*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006.
11. McGrath, S. J. *Heidegger: A (Very) Critical Introduction*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2008.
12. Muhall, Stephen. *Heidegger and Being and Time*. 2nd Ed. London: Routledge, 2005.
13. Polt, Richard. *Heidegger: An Introduction*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1999.
14. Polt, Richard (ed.). *Heidegger's Being and Time: Critical Essays*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2005.
15. Sembera, Richard. *Rephrasing Heidegger: A Companion to Being and Time*. Ottawa: The University of Ottawa Press, 2007.
16. Wrathall, Mark. *How to Read Heidegger*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2005.