

**PHIL5340/PHIL7340 Seminar on Modern Western Philosophy:
Phenomenology of Imagination**

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Face-to-face Teaching

Term: 2023-24 Term 1

Time : Tuesday 18:30-21:30

Location : YIA 503

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This course aims at an in-depth discussion of selected works of major philosophers in modern Western philosophy such as Descartes, Hume, Kant and Hegel. The specific content of the course may vary from semester to semester. Students may repeat the course for credit, provided that two courses with identical course codes are not elected in the same semester.

Topics/Schedule (Tentative)

This is a seminar devoted to exploring some of the central ways in which imagination has been thematized in the European philosophy of the twentieth century in general, and in phenomenology, in particular. We will focus on the works by Edmund Husserl, Jean-Paul Sartre, Maurice Merleau-Ponty and Paul Ricoeur. Topics will include: the essential characteristics of image-consciousness, the freedom and limits of imagination, the distinction between productive and reproductive imagination, the function of social imagination.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues discussed.
2. Analyze and critically interpret some significant primary texts in modern Western philosophy.
3. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to conduct independent research on the topics covered and related issues.
4. Gain competence in explaining and evaluating the key concepts and theories in the philosophy of the imagination.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with some of the central debates in European philosophy.
6. Engage in in-depth discussion on the selected topics of the course.
7. Demonstrate consolidated skills in expository and argument writing.

Topics

1. Introduction: The Main Outlines of Continental Philosophy of Imagination
2. The Essential Characteristics of the Image
3. The Image Family: Images, Portraits, Caricatures, Signs, Portraits, Schematic Drawings, etc.
4. Image Consciousness: Knowledge, Affectivity, Movements
5. The Role of the image in Psychic Life: Symbols, Images, Thoughts, Perceptions.
6. The Imaginary Life: From Pathologies to Dreams
7. Aesthetic Imagination and the Work of Art
8. The Role of Imagination in Discourse and Action
9. Reproductive and Productive Imagination
10. Social Imaginary

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 (oral presentation, reflective summaries and the final essay);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

Lecture/Seminar Discussion: 3 hours each week.

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

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1. Reading: 3–4 hours on the basic and suggested readings.
2. Writing Assignments and Presentation: an average of 2–3 hours each week on preparing for classes and writing reflective summaries and the final paper. You should design a schedule that enables you to spend more time on the writing assignments and tutorial presentation a few weeks before they are due.

Assessment scheme

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

Task nature	Description	Weight
Participation in class and tutorial discussions	Participation and Discussion	15%
Three Reflective Summaries	Around 1000 words each	45%
Final Essay	Around 2500 words	40%

Remarks:

1. Participation in Lectures/Seminars: Grading is based on meaningful participation in discussions. Absence will damage your grades.
2. Reflective Summaries: Your essay should be approximately two single-spaced typewritten pages. You are supposed to a) provide at least a one page long summary of the assigned readings (or longer), b) identify what you consider to be the most important point(s) in the readings (philosophically, with argumentation) (at least one paragraph), c) identify what in the readings raises most questions for reflection (philosophically, with argumentation, one paragraph). Your critical summary should be approximately 1000 words long.
3. 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. You will be expected to do some independent research, to formulate a central thesis as well as to develop arguments in support of it. The due date of this assignment will be announced in class towards the end of the semester.

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended learning resources

1. Richard Kearney, *Poetics of Imagining*. Fordham UP, 1998.
2. Richard Kearney, *The Wake of Imagination*. Routledge, 1988.
3. Edward Casey, *Imagining: A Phenomenological Study*. Indiana UP, 1979.
4. Edward Casey, "Imagination and Phenomenological Method," in *Husserl: Expositions and Appraisals*, Ed. By F. Elliston and P. McCormic. University of Notre Dame Press, 1977.
5. Donald Kuspit, "Fiction and Phenomenology," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, vol. 29, 1968.
6. Felix Kaufman, "On Imagination," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, vol C11, 1946.
7. Jean-Paul Sartre, *Imagination*, trans. by F. Williams, University of Michigan Press, 1962.
8. I. A. Bunting, "Sartre on Imagination," *Philosophical Studies*, vol. 19, 1970.
9. R. Goldthorpe, "Sartre's Theory of Imagination," *Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology*, vol. 4, no. 2, 1973.
10. Mary Warnock, "Imagination in Sartre," *British Journal of Aesthetics*, vol. 10, 1970.
11. Edmund Husserl, *Experience and Judgment*. Trans. By James Chruchill and Karl Ameriks. Northwestern UP, 1973. (See especially Part III, pp. 321-365)
12. Husserl, Edmund. 2005. *Phantasy, Image-Consciousness, and Memory (1898-1925)*. Trans. by J. B. Brough. Dordrecht: Springer.
13. Castoriadis, Cornelius. 1997. "Radical Imagination and the Social Instituting Imaginary." *The Castoriadis Reader*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 319-337.
14. Bachelard, Gaston. 1994. *The Poetics of Space*, trans. by Maria Jolas, Beacon Press.
15. Busch, Thomas. 1997. "Sartre and Ricoeur on Imagination." *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, LXX/4, pp. 507-518.
16. Levy, Lior. 2014. "Sartre and Ricoeur on Productive Imagination." *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 52/1, pp. 43-60.
17. Ricoeur, Paul. 1978. "The Metaphorical Process as Cognition, Imagination and Feeling," *Critical Inquiry* 5/1, pp. 143-159.
18. Ricoeur, Paul. 1979. "The Function of Fiction in Shaping Reality." *Man and World*, 12/2, pp. 123-141.
19. Ricoeur, Paul. 1986. *Lectures on Ideology and Utopia*. Ed. by George Taylor. New York: Columbia University Press.
20. Ricoeur, Paul. 1991. "Imagination in Discourse and Action." *From Text to Action*, trans. by Kathleen Blamey & John B. Thompson (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 168-87).
21. Sartre, Jean-Paul. 1962. *The Imagination*. Trans. by F. Williams. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
22. Sartre, Jean-Paul. 2004. *The Imaginary: A Phenomenological Psychology of the Imagination*. Trans. by Jonathan Webber. London and New York: Routledge.
23. Stawarska, Beata. 2005. "Defining Imagination: Sartre Between Husserl and Janet." *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 4, pp. 133-153.
24. Taylor, George. 2006. "Ricoeur's Philosophy of Imagination." *Journal of French Philosophy*, 16/1, pp. 93-104.
25. Warnock, Mary. 1994. *Imagination and Time*. Oxford, U.K. and Cambridge, U.S.A.: Blackwell.
26. Geniusas, S. 2022. *Phenomenology of Productive Imagination: Embodiment, Language, Subjectivity*. Stuttgart: Ibidem Press
27. Geniusas, S. (ed.) 2019. *Varieties of Creative Imagination. Social Imaginaries* 5/1, 2019.
28. Geniusas, S. (ed.). 2018. *Stretching the Limits of Productive Imagination: Studies in Kantianism, Phenomenology and Hermeneutics*. Rowman & Littlefield.
29. Geniusas, S. and Nikulin, D. (eds.). 2018. *Productive Imagination: Its History, Meaning and Significance*. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018.

Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>
1	Introduction	None
2	Some Fundamental Distinctions: Phantasy and Perception	Husserl, <i>Phantasy</i> , 1-30
3	Some Fundamental Distinctions: Phantasy and Image Consciousness	Husserl, <i>Phantasy</i> , 30-57
4	Four Essential Characteristics of Image-Consciousness	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> , 1-25
5	The Image Family Knowledge, Affectivity, Movement	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 25-54
6	The Probable	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 55-83
7	The Image in Psychic Life	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 97-122
8	The Imaginary Life: Conduct Facing the Irreal	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 125-148
9	Pathologies of Imagination and Dreams	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 148-175
10	Consciousness of Imagination and the Work of Art	Sartre, <i>The Imaginary</i> 177-194 and Merleau-Ponty, "Cezanne's Doubt"
11	Ontology and Aesthetics	Merleau-Ponty, "Cezanne's Doubt" and "Eye and Mind"
12	The Hermeneutics of Imagination	Ricoeur, "Imagination in Discourse and Action"
13	The Hermeneutics of Imagination	Ricoeur, <i>Ideology and Utopia</i>

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

Teacher	
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TA	
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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/>

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.