This course aims to introduce students to some of the most important philosophical streams in contemporary philosophy: phenomenology, hermeneutics and deconstruction. From a historical point of view, it will show the relationship between these streams and the philosophical tradition (ancient, medieval and modern) and it will investigate the relevance of 20th century philosophers for contemporary culture and society. From a systematic point of view, it will focus on questions such as: being, truth, objectivity, subjectivity, God. The students are expected to further develop the questions discussed in class in a contemporary context. The syllabus is subject to changes.

Thu Jan 18  Presentation

Th Jan 23 Introduction: overview on contemporary continental philosophy

Th Jan 25  Husserl - Encyclopedia Britannica article, Draft D, p. 163-167

Th Jan 30  Husserl - Encyclopedia Britannica article, Draft D, p. 167-175

Th Feb 1  Heidegger – Being and Time, the question of the meaning of Being, p. 21-32

T Feb 6  Heidegger, Being and Time, being-in-the world, p. 78-86

Th Feb 8  Heidegger – Being and Time, being-there, p. 172-188

T Feb 13  Heidegger – Being and Time, the falling of Dasein, p. 210-225: team work

Th Feb 15  Heidegger, Being and Time: Being-towards-death (Part I, Div. II, 274-312)

T Feb 20  Heidegger, Being and Time: The authentic potentiality-for-being (Part I, Div. II, 312-349)


T Feb 27  BBC documentary: Heidegger: Thinking the Unthinkable (http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/heidegger-thinking-the-unthinkable/)

Th March 1  Presentations I

T March 6  Presentations II

Th March 8  How to write your paper

March 12-16 Spring break


Th Apr 5  Gadamer, Truth and Method, hermeneutic circle, Part II, Ch. II, Section. A, p. 265-277: team work

T March 27  Gadamer, Truth and Method, authority and tradition, Part II, Ch. II, Section B, p. 277-285

March 29-April 1 Easter break

T Apr 3  Gadamer, Truth and Method, Part III, ch. 1, language, p. 381-395
Th Apr 5 Gadamer, *Truth and Method*, verbum interius, Part III, Ch. III, Section B, p. 418-428

T Apr 10 Team work

Th Apr 12 Presentations III


Th Apr 19 Derrida, *Writing and difference*, ch. Violence and metaphysics 109-134


Th Apr 26 Contemporary Philosophy and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition

T May 1 Presentations IV

Th May 3 Review. Final paper due today.

Readings:


Grade:

a. grade structure:
   - ¼ class participation (participation to discussions, disputation, team work)
   - ¼ presentation
   - ¼ paper: “The question of objectivity in Husserl/or/and/Heidegger” (3 pages, due April 3)
   - ¼ final paper – topic of your choice (5 pages, due May 3)

b. extra-credits:
   - for absences and class participation: 5 pages paper on topic of your choice (from topics discussed in class): 12pt, 1.5 lines
   - for the final exam: two extra-credit questions

c. penalties
   1. only 2 unexcused absences are allowed. For every additional unexcused absence your class participation grade will be lowered with half letter.
   2. Cell use is not allowed. If you use the cell phone in class without previous permission (granted only in emergency cases), your class participation grade will be F.
   3. Computer use is not allowed. Computer use can be allowed only in case of special personal needs – please talk to me. If you use the computer you will be asked to leave the class.
   4. for each task that you miss in class (disputation and team work) your class participation grade will be lowered with one letter
   5. if you come late to class more than 4 times, your class participation grade will be lowered with one letter

Classroom etiquette:
No computers, no phones, no ipods. No breaks during class (please go to restroom before or after class). No food (only light snacks).

Only one unexcused absence is accepted.

Disability
Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

Blackboard
Please check your online blackboard regularly.