

Course Syllabus

Course Information

HUHI 7330: PHILOSOPHICAL HERMENEUTICS

Charles Bambach

Fall 2015 Tuesday 4:00 PM-6:45 PM JO 4.112

Professor Contact Information

My office hours, in JO 5.416, are from 3:00PM-4:00 PM on Tuesday and by appointment; the phone number is (972) 883-2006. My e-mail address is: cbambach@utdallas.edu

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Graduate Standing: Ph.D. candidates

Course Description

Textual interpretation is never an autochthonic, self-generated activity; rather it always places us within the very matrices bequeathed by tradition. Texts come down to us in the form of palimpsests, written upon by other texts which shape the way we approach and interpret them. When the texts are written in a different language we inevitably confront the problem of translation; when they derive from an ancient culture we are forced to account for the problem of temporal distance. This graduate seminar on "The History of Hermeneutics" will raise questions about the practice of translation/interpretation within the context of philosophical and literary tradition.

In this graduate seminar on the history of hermeneutics we will explore various aspects of the problem of interpretation. What do we do when we interpret? Is this a value-judgement? an act of critical engagement? an historically learned prejudice? an inevitable consequence of human activity? Does interpretation - in literary, aesthetic or historical practice - require a method? a theory? a grounding in principle? Could there ever be something like a "science of interpretation"? Or is interpretation something particular to the scholarly practices of the arts and humanities?

These are some of the questions we will pursue in our semester's reading. By focusing on the work of four modern German thinkers - Schleiermacher, Dilthey, Heidegger and Gadamer - we will try to develop a better sense of how the problems of modern and postmodern discourse are related to theories of interpretation. In practical terms, we will spend most of our time reading BEING & TIME carefully with an emphasis on close hermeneutical interpretation.

Required Textbooks and Materials

The following editions are REQUIRED. You may find them at the UTD Book Store, Off Campus Books, and commercially. It is imperative that you purchase the EXACT editions of these texts and NOT just any translation of these works.

Martin Heidegger *Being and Time* Joan Stambaugh translation/DENNIS SCHMIDT REVISION (SUNY Press 2010 EDITION)

Hans-Georg Gadamer *Truth and Method* (Continuum) 2nd Revised translation Marshall/Weinsheimer

Jean Grondin *An Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics* (Yale UP)

Dilthey "Rise of Hermeneutics" (HANDOUT)

Suggested Course Materials

Reiner Schürmann *On Heidegger's Being and Time*

Richard Palmer *Hermeneutics*

Maurizio Ferraris *History of Hermeneutics*

Bret Davis ed., *Heidegger: Key Concepts*

S. Glendinning ed., *Edinburgh Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy*

John Protevi ed., *Edinburgh Dictionary of Continental Philosophy*

S. Critchley ed., *A Companion to Continental Philosophy*

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Alan Schrift ed., *The History of Continental Philosophy*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

25 August: Course introduction

1 September: Dilthey "Rise of Hermeneutics" (**Course Pack**); Grondin **Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics**.

8-15-22--29 September AND 7-14-21-28 October AND 3-10-17 November: Heidegger **Being and Time**

10 NOVEMBER: PAPER PROPOSALS DUE (1-2pp.)

1-8 December: Gadamer **Truth and Method**

9 DECEMBER FINAL ESSAYS DUE in my office by 2PM.

Grading Policy

Course requirements include ONE ESSAY of 10-13pp. length due at the end of the term, ONE Paper-Proposal due Nov. 10 and ONE in-class PROTOKOLL. Students will be expected to read the texts for each class and be prepared to discuss them. Since we will

be discussing the language and form of each text we read, students will be expected to bring their texts to class for each session.

Grades are assessed on a 4.0 scale as described in the graduate catalog. + and – grades will be assigned to graduate students.

Course & Instructor Policies

You cannot hope to pass this class if you do not attend it and complete all of the required work. I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS. This course will be conducted according to strict codes of academic honesty. All cases of plagiarism will be fully investigated and the deliberate instances reported to the Dean of Students. Penalties for deliberate cheating may include failing the assignment in question, failing the course, or suspension and expulsion from the University. Students are expected to know the University's policies and procedures on such matters, as well as those governing student services, conduct, and obligations.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.