

Course Syllabus

Course Information

HUHI 7332: TWENTIETH-CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY POST-1945

Charles Bambach

SPRING 2018 MONDAY. 4:00 PM-6:45 PM

Professor Contact Information

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

Course Description

Contemporary continental philosophy understands itself as an ongoing conversation with the work of Heidegger, a conversation that involves a decidedly critical engagement with the ethical legacy of the 20th century. Growing out of Heidegger's unwillingness to address his own complicity in this legacy, several French philosophers such as Jacques Derrida, Emmanuel Levinas, and Maurice Blanchot have written works that grapple with the ethical failings of Heideggerian philosophy. In this graduate seminar I want to look at this specific conversation: the French encounter with Heidegger on the question of ethical responsibility and the relation to the Other. I choose this specific theme because it seems to me that much contemporary thinking on the continent concerns ways of both retrieving and de-structuring the fundamental tenets of Heideggerian thinking. I want to look at how this French tradition, through its critique of Heidegger, has helped to shape the way 20th-century Continental philosophy has defined itself. My hope here is that by familiarizing ourselves with the basic tenets of this dispute we can be in a better position to think through the current debate about hermeneutics, deconstruction, phenomenology, literary theory and the Holocaust that determines the way we think about the Western tradition.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Students will learn interpretive skills in reading texts with care, improve their writing ability, and will gain a fundamental knowledge of modern continental philosophy and its relation to the problem of justice.

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.

HEIDEGGER, *BASIC WRITINGS* (HARPER-COLLINS)
LEVINAS, *TOTALITY AND INFINITY* (DUQUESNE)
DERRIDA, *ACTS OF RELIGION* (ROUTLEDGE)
BLANCHOT, *WRITING THE DISASTER* (NEBRASKA)
JEAN-LUC NANCY, *THE CREATION OF THE WORLD or GLOBALIZATION* (SUNY)

Suggested Course Materials

Alan Schrift, ed., *History of Continental Philosophy*
S. Glendinning, ed., *Edinburgh Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy*
John Protevi, ed., *Edinburgh Dictionary of Continental Philosophy*
S. Critchley, ed., *A Companion to Continental Philosophy*
Charles Bambach, *Thinking the Poetic Measure of Justice*
Charles Bambach, "Ethos, Aufenthalt und Heideggers heraklitische Kritik an der Ethik" in:
Heidegger Jahrbuch 10 (2017): 62-78.
Charles Bambach, "The *ethos* of Dwelling in Heidegger's *Letter on Humanism*" *International Yearbook for Hermeneutics* 15 (2016): 90-107.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

8 January: Course Introduction: Heidegger & 20th-Century Continental Philosophy

22-29 January + 5 February: Heidegger, "Letter on Humanism" in: *BASIC WRITINGS*, pp.213-265.

12-19-26 February: Levinas, *TOTALITY AND INFINITY* (Intro., Preface, Section One, pp. 11-105).

5-12-26 March: Derrida, "Force of Law" in: *ACTS OF RELIGION*, pp.228-298.

2 APRIL PAPER PROPOSALS DUE

4-11-18 APRIL: Blanchot, *WRITING THE DISASTER*

25 April: Jean-Luc Nancy, *THE CREATION OF THE WORLD or GLOBALIZATION*

TUESDAY 1ST OF MAY: FINAL ESSAYS DUE IN MY OFFICE BY 2 PM

Grading Policy I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS.

Course requirements include: ONE IN-CLASS PROTOKOLL 1-2 pp. and a 12-15 pp. essay (90%). Classroom participation will constitute 10% of the grade (based on quality of insight). 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.