

Sample Syllabus (400 level)

Husserl and the Development of Phenomenology

When/Where: TBD

Instructor: Carmen De Schryver

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description:

This course will explore Edmund Husserl's philosophical output from 1900 to 1936. The first unit of the course will focus on Husserl's early contributions: intentionality, categorial intuition and the a priori. In this part of the course, we trace the development of the phenomenological reduction and consider how it relates to the other key method of phenomenology, eidetic variation. In the second unit of the course, we will look at Husserl's late texts and interrogate the charge that the *Crisis* and associated works involve a turn to historicity impermissible from the perspective of phenomenology's core commitments. Finally, we examine two distinctive transformations of Husserlian phenomenology: Maurice Merleau-Ponty's development of an empirical phenomenology and Jacques Derrida's transcendental phenomenology.

Course Elements

- Participation (20%)
 - (i) Preparation for class.
 - Readings. Weekly discussions will be based largely on the assigned readings. All the assigned readings for this course are mandatory. You are expected to read closely and attentively (often, this will mean reading twice; it will always mean taking notes).
 - Post on the discussion board *before class*. Depending on the week, you will be asked to either pose a question of your own based on the readings, or answer the question posted on the discussion board.
 - (ii) Contribution to the discussion.
 - A positive contribution can take on a variety of forms: asking a clarificatory question, raising a discussion point, weighing in on an interpretation, pointing to a significant passage in the text, etc. At minimum, it requires that you be a respectful and engaged listener not just to what I say but to what your peers say. Speaking up in larger group settings will be more comfortable for some than for others. If you tend to be more talkative, an important component of your contributing to a healthy and respectful discussion will be making space for others to speak. If you tend to be less talkative, I encourage you to meet with me during office hours to determine how we can cultivate a welcoming dialogical environment that works for you.
- In-class presentation (10%)
 - For our first meeting, you should come prepared to select a week in which you would like to present.
 - The presentation should be about **10 minutes** and set up the discussion by highlighting the key themes and arguments in that week's readings, as well as raising **two discussion questions**.

(These questions should be formulated so as to conduce to in-depth philosophical discussion. If you are unsure whether your questions are suitable, don't hesitate to contact me.)

- Reflection papers (10%)
 - **Six** submissions of a short (one paragraph) reflection on that week's reading *in advance* of the class meeting. You may be asked to share some of this material during our discussion.
 - This can consist in a reconstruction of the views expressed in the readings, a comparison between that week's readings and some of the material encountered previously in the course, a personal reflection on the readings, a development of your own position vis-à-vis the arguments made in the readings... and so on. The key requirement is that you engage substantively with the readings.
 - Two term paper of no more than 15 pages (20% total). Prompts will be circulated in advance of the deadline.
 - Final paper of no more than 20 pages (40% total)
 - This can build on one of your reflection papers or pick a new topic.
 - 1-2 weeks prior to the deadline, you'll give a 10-minute presentation of your paper to the class (10%)
 - Your assessment on the final paper will factor in your engagement with your peers (10%)Guidelines for respectful and constructive peer feedback will be circulated online.
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Course Materials

- Edmund Husserl, *Phenomenological Psychology: Lectures 1925*, trans. John Scanlon (The Hague: Martinus Nijhof, 1977)
 - Edmund Husserl, *Logical Investigations*, trans. J. N. Findlay, ed. by D. Moran. 2 vols. (London and New York: Routledge, 2001)
 - Edmund Husserl, *Ideas for a Pure Phenomenology and Phenomenological Philosophy. First Book: General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology*, trans. D. O. Dahlstrom (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2014)
 - Edmund Husserl, *Phenomenology and the Crisis of Philosophy*, trans. Quintin Lauer (New York: Harper Collins, 1998)
 - Edmund Husserl, *Phantasy, Image Consciousness and Memory*, trans. John B. Brough (Dordrecht: Springer, 2005)
 - Edmund Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*, trans. David Carr (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2006)
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Tentative Course Schedule

The following is a provisional course schedule for the semester. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class.

Week 1: Introduction

No reading

Week 2: Phenomenology as Rigorous Science

PCP, 1-120

Week 3: Early Husserl

LI II_1, Introduction

Ideas I, §§27–34, §§47–50, §§69–75, and §84

Week 4: Intentionality I

LI II_1, inv. 1, §§1–15, §§30–35

LI II_1, inv. 5, Introduction, §§1–21, and Appendix to §§11 and 20

Week 5: Intentionality II

Ideas I, §§84–105, §§128–135

Week 6: Categorial Intuition and the a Priori

LI II_2, inv. 6, §§1–12

EJ, §83

Week 7: Categorial Intuition and the a Priori II

LI II_2, inv. 6, §§40–52

Ideas I, §§136–145

Week 8: Eidetic Variation

PP, §8-11 (pp. 51-70)

PICM, pp. 605-625

Week 9: Late Husserl

PCP, 122-147

CTP, §1-7

Week 10: Late Husserl

CTP, §8-9

CTP, §33-§44

Week 11: Merleau-Ponty

Merleau-Ponty, *The Primacy of Perception*, 43-95

Merleau-Ponty, *Signs*, 98-113

Week 12: Derrida

Derrida, *The Origin of Geometry: An Introduction*, 23-152

Derrida, *The Problem of Genesis*, 1-8; 153-179

Derrida, *Rogues*, 118-140

Week 13: Presentations

Week 14: Presentations

Week 15: Presentations

