

## CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

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PHIL XXXXX · Semester Year · Class Time · Class Meeting Place

**Instructor:** Joe Ulatowski  
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**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Description:** The aim of this course is to introduce you to fundamental issues in Continental Philosophy. Some of the topics we will explore include: the origins of continental thought in the idea of psychologism, the problem of intentionality, problems of phenomenology, hermeneutics, Marxism and Critical Theory, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Post Modernism, and Deconstruction. We will critically examine each of these issues. The class presumes neither knowledge of nor a passing acquaintance with continental or analytic philosophy.

Check the course webpage frequently for updated information about this course: [enter course website here]

**Required Text:** Kearney, Richard and Mara Rainwater, eds. (1995). *The Continental Philosophy Reader*. London: Routledge. ISBN 0415095263

Course packet or handouts

More suggested texts citations are available on the course website.

**Requirements:** Actually doing philosophy involves class discussion, in which students dialogue back and forth with the instructor and with each other. This class places a premium on class discussion. Since this is the case, attendance is vital for success in the course.

**Participation (15%).** You should come to class prepared to talk about the article(s) you read for that day. By raising a question, a comment, or criticism of the reading, you earn participation points. The participation grade will be based on the extent to which you participate in discussion and the quality of your comments.

**Presentation (15%).** You will be expected to present one/two articles to the class. A presentation consists in outlining at least the main argument of the reading. You may also include some of the auxiliary arguments if they are important components of the main argument of the paper. An exceptional presentation will include a few criticisms of the main argument. You need to demonstrate that you have command of the argument. If you are too confused by the argument, then summarize what you think the main argument of the reading is and present a few questions.

**Mini-papers (30%).** You will be responsible for completing two mini-papers of no more than 5 pages (strict limit). The first paper is due DUE DATE, and the second paper is due DUE DATE. For each of them, I will prepare a few questions for you to use as a guide for writing the paper. If you want to create your own topic to write about, then please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

**Final Paper (40%).** The student will be expected to complete one 10-12 page paper on a topic of the student's choice. More information, i.e., suggested topics, will be distributed sometime toward the middle of the semester. The student must submit a brief prospectus of the paper by DUE DATE, a bibliography by DUE DATE, and a detailed outline by DUE DATE.

*Failure to complete any of these requirements will severely effect your grade.*

**Policies:**

**Cheating.** Cheating on any course requirement shall not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from one's own clandestine notes, from someone else's paper, or quoting or paraphrasing an author without crediting the source (plagiarism). If the student is caught cheating, then s/he will receive a 0 on the work and will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Students with Disabilities Act.** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric impairments. Please contact the instructor at the beginning of the course to discuss any such accommodations that you may require for this course. For more information, the student should contact the Center for Disability Services.

**Notice.** The student is advised. All material contained herein, including course design, content, lectures, correspondence, Internet content, and written material, is the intellectual property of the instructor. In addition, the instructor reserves the right to change, revise, or alter any portion of this syllabus at any time, at his sole discretion, for any reason, without further notification to the student. This syllabus is in accordance with the [university or college handbook].

**Grading:**

There are no averages in this class, so put your calculators away. Grades will be determined according to a linear point scale. The more points you accumulate the higher your grade. In-class participation is worth a total of 100 points, each presentation is worth 50 points (100 total points available), each mini paper is worth 100 points (200 points total), and the final paper is worth a total of 250 points. The total number of points available equals 650.

The grading scale is as follows: 585 for an A-, 520 for a B-, 455 for a C-, 390 for a D-. Anyone who fails to earn 390 points fails the class.

**Course  
Schedule &  
Assignments:**

The course schedule is available online at the class website. Since this is an advanced philosophy class that emphasizes discussion in the classroom (and outside the classroom) the schedule may change frequently. The class website and blog will be the primary forms of communication with the student, and the student should check these website regularly.

Reading Assignments	Homework Assignments (TBD)
<b>Predecessors of Contemporary Continental Philosophy:</b> An Overview of Hegel, Marx, Feuerbach, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Schilling. (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 1
<b>The Origins of Contemporary Continental Thought:</b> An Overview of Lotze, Brentano, Meinong, Mally, Helmholtz, Lange, and Herbart. (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 2
<b>The Psychologism Debate: Continental Philosophy's First Challenge:</b> An Overview of the Frege / Husserl debate. (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 3
<b>The Rise of Phenomenology:</b> Husserl on Phenomenology (CPR), his early lectures on the Idea of Phenomenology (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER) & Heidegger's <i>Being and Time</i> (CPR).	Week 4
<b>Phenomenology and the Move to Hermeneutics:</b> Jaspers from <i>Philosophy of Existence</i> , Merleau-Ponty from <i>Phenomenology of Perception</i> , and de Beauvoir from <i>The Second Sex</i> . (All in CPR)	Week 5
<b>Hermeneutics:</b> Gadamer on Hermeneutics, Levinas on Ethics, and Ricouer on Interpretation. (CPR)	Week 6
<b>Marxism in Contemporary Continental Thought:</b> Luxemborg on Marxism and Lukacs from <i>History and Class Consciousness</i> . (CPR)	Week 7
<b>More on Marxism:</b> Adorno & Horkheimer from <i>Dialectic of the Enlightenment</i> , Benjamin on History, and Arendt from <i>Between Past and Future</i> . (CPR)	Week 8
<b>From Structuralism to Deconstruction:</b> de Saussure on Signs and Levi-Strauss on Myth. (CPR)	Week 9
<b>Lashing out at Structuralism:</b> Foucault on Power, Barthes on Semiology, and Kristeva on Women's Time. (CPR)	Week 10

<b>Postmodernism:</b> Lyotard (CPR and HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 11
<b>Deconstruction:</b> Derrida (CPR & HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 12
<b>Recent Developments in Phenomenology:</b> Naturalizing Phenomenology (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 13
<b>Recent Developments in the Psychologism Debate:</b> Naturalizing Logic (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 14
<b>Recent Developments in Race Theory:</b> Race as Ontological Phenomena (HANDOUTS / COURSE PACKET READER)	Week 15