



**20th-Century Continental
Philosophy: Martin Heidegger
FALL 2010**

**PHIL 367-01
MWF 7:00-8:30 PM**

Professor Diane Michelfelder
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Course Description

Offered every other year with a different topic, this seminar emphasizes close reading, reflection, and analysis of a work or works associated with a major figure or movement within the tradition of twentieth-century Continental philosophy. For Fall 2010, the emphasis will be on the philosophical writings of Martin Heidegger. The primary question guiding the course is: For Heidegger, what does it mean to think philosophically? Raising this question will first take us to his masterwork *Being and Time*. Here, Heidegger took the task of philosophy to be the methodological recovery of the long-forgotten question: “What is Being?” Later, Heidegger would come to consider philosophical thinking as the creation of pathways (*holzwege*) within a forest, pathways which did not in advance set out to reach a particular destination. What questions can we

bring to our reading of Heidegger that would allow us to best approach and critically assess his work, complicated not only by the demands it makes on our understanding but also by his involvement with National Socialism? Our explorations in this course will take us through *Being and Time* (including significant parts of Division II), *What is Called Thinking?*, and a number of other essays. We will also be looking at the relationship between his philosophy and his politics through the eyes of the film *The Ister* and Richard Wolin's book *The Heidegger Controversy*. The course will also incorporate readings from some well-known philosophers influenced by and critical of Heidegger's work.

Learning goals

The learning goals for this course can be simply expressed. This course is designed to help you acquire a critical understanding of some of the major works of Martin Heidegger. It is intended to give you opportunities for becoming more practiced in the kinds of reading, talking, thinking, and writing that are part of the activity of "doing philosophy," and to help you become more aware of the questions and assumptions you bring to this activity. It is also intended to give you a greater appreciation of the genuine difficulties involved with doing philosophy, as well as its genuine pleasures.

Required Texts

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*. SUNY Press, 1996.

_____. *Poetry, Language, Thought*. Harper Perennial Classics, 2001.

_____. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*. Harper Perennial Classics, 1977.

_____. *What is Called Thinking?* Harper Perennial Classics, 2004.

Richard Wolin, *The Heidegger Controversy*, MIT Press, 1993.

Recommended Reading

Mark Wrathall, *How to Read Heidegger*. W.W. Norton, 2005. (This book is strongly recommended for those of you who have not read any selections from Heidegger's work prior to participating in this course.)

Academic Integrity

In reviewing your work, I will adhere to the College's *Academic Integrity Policy* as published in the *Student Handbook*.

Through the gift of your attention, you also help support the integrity of the academic environment. For your own sake and for the sake of others when we are in class together please refrain from texting, tweeting, and the like.

Coursework

For this course, you will be asked to submit four written papers. The first paper, 5-7 pages in length, will give you an opportunity to reflect on a topic that interests you from *Being and Time*. The second, 3-5 pages long, will ask you to compare Heidegger's mode of philosophical questioning in *What is Called Thinking?* to that in *B&T*. The third paper, 5-7 pages, will be a critical analysis of one of Heidegger's later essays. The fourth and last paper, which can be turned in through the time of our final exam, will be a 10-15 page research paper on a topic of your choosing from either *B&T*, one of the later works that we are reading for this class, or both.

You will have the option of rewriting the first and third papers in order to improve your grade. Should you choose to rewrite your paper, it will be due one week after you receive your comments on your first paper.

Unexcused late papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date, but you will lose half a grade (e.g. A- to B+) on the first day your paper is late, and every two days thereafter.

Coursework evaluation

Your final grade for this class will be based on the following percentages:

First paper	20%
Second paper	15%
Third paper	20%
Term paper	30%
Class participation	15%

By "class participation" I do not mean showing up for class but rather active engagement during class meetings: raising questions, taking part in discussions, etc. In this context, it is not how often you speak but what you say that matters.

Schedule of Topics, Readings, Exams, and Paper Due Dates

Please note this schedule may change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week One

8 September	Welcome and introduction to the course <i>Reading: Martin Heidegger, Being and Time, pp.1-12</i>
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Week Two

- 13 September Da-sein and the structures of disclosedness
Being and Time, pp.107-139
- 15 September Care
Being and Time, pp. 156-196

Week Three

- 20 September Everyday and authentic being-toward-death
Being and Time, pp.219-246
- 22 September Resoluteness
Being and Time, pp.246-277

Week Four

- 27 September The meaning of care
Being and Time, pp.279-306
- 29 September Temporality and everydayness
Being and Time, pp.307-340

Week Five

- 4 October Time to reflect on *Being and Time* as a whole.
What is included and, just as importantly, what is missing?
- 6 October *Introduction to Metaphysics*, Chapter 1, "The Fundamental Question"
(on library reserve)
First Paper Due

Week Six

- 11 October *What is Called Thinking?*, Part I, Lectures 1 through 5
- 13 October *What is Called Thinking?*, Part I, Lectures 6 through 10

Week Seven

- 18 October *What is Called Thinking?* Part II, Lectures 1 through 5
- 20 October *What is Called Thinking?* Part II, Lectures 5 through 11

Week Eight

- 25 October "The Question Concerning Technology," in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, pp.3-35.
- 27 October "The Question Concerning Technology," cont'd
Andrew Feenberg, "Technology and Meaning," from *Questioning Technology*
(on e-reserve)

Second Paper Due

Week Nine

- 1 November "The Age of the World Picture," in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, pp. 115-136
- 3 November We will be viewing selections from the *The Ister*.
For more information on this film, see www.theister.com

Week Ten

- 8 November We will continue our viewing of *The Ister*, followed by discussion. Refreshments provided.
- 10 November Richard Wolin, *The Heidegger Controversy*, pp.29-39, 61-66
Note: Wolin's introduction to this book, pp. 1-19, is highly recommended

Week Eleven

- 15 November Paul L with, "The Political Implications of Heidegger's Existentialism," in *The Heidegger Controversy*, pp.167-185
- 17 November Jacques Derrida, selections from *Of Spirit: Heidegger and the Question*
(on e-reserve)

Third Paper Due

Week Twelve

- 22 November "The Origin of the Work of Art," in *Poetry, Language, Thought*, pp.17-48
- 24 November "The Origin of the Work of Art," pp.48-86

Week Thirteen

- 29 November "Overcoming Metaphysics," in *The Heidegger Controversy*," pp.67-90
- 1 December "Building, Dwelling, Thinking," in *Poetry, Language, Thought*, pp.143-159

Week Fourteen

- 6 December “...Poetically Man Dwells...” in *Poetry, Language, Thought*, pp.211-227
- 8 December Hans-Georg Gadamer, “Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity; Subject and Person”; selections from *A Century of Philosophy: Hans-Georg Gadamer in Conversation with Richard Dottori* (on e-reserve)

Week Fifteen

- 14 December Philosophy pizza night and course wrap-up
Reading: “Only a God Can Save Us,” in *The Heidegger Controversy*, pp. 91-116

- 15 December **Term Papers Due**
Please turn your term paper in to me
in my office by 6 pm