

MCGILL UNIVERSITY: DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY (2012-2013)

PHILOSOPHY 575 (Autumn): SEMINAR - CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY

Tuesday: 1:30-3:30

Professor Buckley

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Office: Leacock 929; office hours - Tuesday 4:00-5:30 (or by appointment)

TOPIC FOR 2012-2013: Heidegger's social ontology

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The topic to be discussed this year will be Heidegger's view of the "being" of community, with particular focus on texts from the 1930's and 40's. Some texts of Husserl from the 1920's will also be treated.

SOME QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED:

What are the implications for a philosophy of community contained in Husserl's notion of "Erneuerung?" Are there "normative" features in Husserl's conception of authentic community as a "personality of higher order?" In what ways can Husserl's political philosophy be viewed as anti-statist? Can Husserl's seemingly quaint account of the role which "philosophers" play in the constitution of authentic community be defended? What hermeneutical clues does Husserl's view of the "We" offer for a reading of his view of the individual subject? How does Husserl's view of community relate to Heidegger's view?

Is there a "social ontology" to be found in Being and Time? Did Heidegger's views on community change between 1927 and 1933? What are the various (self)-interpretations given to Heidegger's political engagement in 1933? Why the enduring interest in Heidegger's political engagement? What have been the various reactions to the various versions of "l'affaire Heidegger?" Which of these reactions are philosophically significant? What do some of these reactions tell us about the contemporary state of "politics" within and outside of the 'academy? What is the relationship between a thinker, his or her "thought," and his or her actions? Is this relationship important? Does Heidegger's later thought represent a turn away from political philosophy? In what ways does the global dominance of technology affect our views "of subjectivity?"

PRIMARY TEXTS:

Heidegger, Martin. *Being and Time*. Trans. J. Macquarrie and E. Robinson. New York: Harper and Row, 1962.

Heidegger, Martin. "The Self-Assertion of the German University: Address delivered on the Solemn Assumption of the Rectorate of the University of Freiburg [and] The Rectorate 1933/34: Facts and Thoughts." Trans. K. Harries. Review of Metaphysics 38 (March, 1985), pp. 467-502.

Heidegger, Martin. "Only a God Can Save Us." Trans. W. Richardson. In *Heidegger: The Man and the Thinker*. Ed. T. Sheehan. Chicago: Precedent Publishing Co., 1981, pp. 45-67.

Heidegger, Martin. *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*. Trans. W. Lovitt. NY: Harper, 1977. (=QCT)

Heidegger, Martin. *Logic as the Question Concerning the Essence of Language*. Trans. W. T. Gregory and Y Unna. Albany: SUNY, 2009. (=Logic)

Heidegger, Martin. "The Will Power as Art" in *Nietzsche*, vol 1&2, trans D.F. Krell, San Francisco: Harper, 1979

Heidegger, Martin. *Hölderlin's Hymn "The Ister"*, trans. W. McNeill and J. Davis (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996).

Husserl, Edmund. *Aufsätze und Vorträge (1922-1937)*. Ed. T. Nenon and H.R. Sepp. Husserliana XXVII. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic, 1989. [An English translation of the essays to be studied will be made available to the participants of the course by the instructor.](=Kaizo)

Wolin, Richard, ed. *The Heidegger Controversy: A Critical Reader*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993.(=HC)

PREREQUISITE: Knowledge of *Being and Time*.

ASSIGNMENTS: One essay (70%); Class presentation(s) and participation (30%) [In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change].

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded." (Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté).