

Heidegger’s *Contributions to Philosophy and Beyond*

**Texts:**

**Required:**

- Martin Heidegger, *The Event*, trans. by Richard Rojcewicz (Indiana University Press, 2009) (Selected passages will be made available on Blackboard.)

**Recommended:**

- Martin Heidegger, *Introduction to Metaphysics* (lecture course of summer semester 1935), Chapter Four.
- Bret Davies (ed.), *Martin Heidegger (Key Concepts)* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010).
- Daniela Vallega-Neu, *Heidegger’s Contributions to Philosophy* (Indiana University Press, 2003) [Read for insight into the transition from *Being and Time* to *Contributions to Philosophy.*]  
- Other interpreters of Heidegger I would recommend: David F. Krell (see his introduction to Heidegger’s *Basic Writings* and his introduction to Heidegger’s Nietzsche lectures), Miguel de Beistegui, Bret Davies.
**Course Description:**
This course focuses especially on Heidegger’s *Contributions to Philosophy: Of the Event* (1936-38), which opens up most of the basic themes of Heidegger’s philosophy since the thirties. This volume belongs to Heidegger’s non-public writings, i.e. to writings that were not conceived with a public in mind but constitute Heidegger’s most radical attempts at finding a way of speaking that would articulate being in its historicality in an originary way. To these non-public writings belong as well *Mindfulness* (*Besinnung*, 1938) and *The Event* (1941) that we will take into consideration as well. We will see how during these years Heidegger’s thinking shifts from a more Nietzschean tonality that seeks an empowerment of beyng, to a thinking that occurs in light of “what is without power” and in “releasment: (Gelassenheit). Themes we will discuss in relation to the readings are “the historicality of beyng,” “the first and the other beginning,” “machination and lived experience,” “the abandonment of beings by being,” “truth and abyss,” “the appropriating event,” “inceptive language,” “the difference between beyng and beings.” The thought Heidegger develops in these volumes is essential for any philosophical engagement with the much-discussed “Black Notebooks” that have not yet been translated into English.

**Requirements:**
1. Participation in discussions, text preparation 20%
2. A class report (6 pages min. but no more than 9) 20%
3. Mid-term comprehensive paper exam (6 pages) 20%
4. Final term paper (9-12 pages) 40%

Regarding 2:
The *class report* should summarize texts we read and relevant discussions we had. The heading should contain a line announcing the texts we discussed and another line (or two) briefly describing the course topics. Then write a report in form of a narrative (not an outline). Add to the class report main questions or issues that came up for you as you worked on the class report. Make an appointment for meeting with me Monday or Tuesday before the final report is due (that would be when the class meets) to read the report to me and discuss its content and any questions you might have. You need to make copies for of your report for the other course participants and will be asked to read your report at the beginning of class.

Regarding 3:
For the *mid-term comprehensive paper exam* you need to present and explain three interrelated concepts from Heidegger’s *Contributions to Philosophy*. You may choose the concepts that interest you (for example: “historicality, first beginning and other beginning” or “machination, lived experience, and the gigantic” or “truth, abyss, and ground” or “word, saying, and silence”) and should quote relevant text passages. Do not use secondary sources for this comprehensive exam. You may rework and use part of the mid-term for your final paper.

Regarding 4:
The *final term paper* should be based on the work we did in class and demonstrate your capacity to work closely with the primary text. You can choose your own topic or else ask me for possible topics. In any case, you need to submit a final paper proposal two weeks prior to the last class. The final paper proposal should consist in an introductory paragraph that exposes the
problem, question, or concept you wish to address, and include a rough outline as well as an indication of the main text passages you wish to discuss.
You need to integrate at least two secondary sources either in the main body of your paper or in extended footnotes.

PAPER FORMATS: All written work needs to be submitted typed, font Times New Roman 12, double-spaced with 1-inch margins.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

1. If you plan to **come to my office** with questions you wish to discuss, please **email me** in writing a brief **explanation of the questions** you have **at least one hour prior to my office hours**.
2. **Handing in an assignment late** will lower your grade. Homework that is more than a week late will not be accepted, unless this was for demonstrable (documented) reasons beyond your control.
3. In order to avoid disruptions in class you are asked to avoid exiting and entering the classroom while lectures and discussions are going on.
4. **If you miss a class** it is your responsibility to keep up with the course material. Use the syllabus as a guideline.
5. You are expected to follow the **rules of academic honesty**. Failure to do so will result in course failure (“F”).

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else’s product, words, ideas, or data as one’s own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. By placing one’s name on work submitted for credit, one certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. Verbatim statements by others must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from the regular text as indented extracts.

Students will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is acknowledgement of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever: 1) one quotes another person’s actual words or replicates all or part of another’s product; 2) one uses another person’s ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one’s own words; 3) one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material—unless the information is common knowledge.

Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). In addition, it is plagiarism to submit as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another person, even if that person is acting as a tutor or editor (and ends up substantially producing part of the work).

*Fabrication:* Fabrication is the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive.

Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) citing information not taken from the source indicated; 2) listing sources in a reference not used in the academic exercise; 3) inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercises.

*Cheating:* Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise.

Examples include but are not limited to: 1) copying from another student’s work; 2) collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one’s work in a test situation; 3) using the course textbook or other material not authorized for use during a test; 4) using unauthorized material during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5) resubmitting substantially
the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6) taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

**Grade Rubric:**
A = excellent. No mistakes, well written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

(Tentative schedule. Changes will be announced through Canvas.)

(Numbers refer to sections unless specified as page numbers with p.)

**Week One**
W., September 30: Introduction to the course. From *Being and Time* to *Contributions to Philosophy*.  
**Read:**
- First page and sections 1, 122 (thrown projection) of *Contributions*.

**Week Two**
**Exceptionally, meeting on Monday 6-9pm.**
(October 7: NO CLASS because of SPEP meeting.)
Heidegger, *Contributions to Philosophy*.  
Section 1-4 (the task, structure, and historical situatedness of *Contributions*).  
Inceptual / inventive thinking: sections 21, 22, 42. (Related to silence: sections 37, 38)  
Fundamental attunements (*Grundstimmungen*): sections 5, 6, 13. (For “steadfastness” and existence see section 179.)

**Week Three**
W., October 14: Heidegger, *Contributions to Philosophy*. Decision and decisions: 43, 44, 45, 46.  
Mindfulness: 9, 10, 63.  
Week Four
Mindfulness: 107, 114, 115
Related readings (not required):

Week Five

Week Six
MID-TERM PAPER EXAM DUE

Week Seven
November 11: Heidegger, *Contributions to Philosophy*. THE GROUNDING (continued):
Sheltering the truth of beyng in beings: 71, 243-247.

Week Eight
November 18: Heidegger, *Contributions to Philosophy*. THE LAST GOD: 253-256 (and 259, p. 437ff in German pagination.)

Week Nine
November 25: Heidegger, *Contributions to Philosophy*. Rethinking the whole: Beyng, sections 267, 269, 270. (The event. The problem of the difference between beyng and beings.)

Week Ten

FINAL PAPERS DUE by Wednesday, December 9, 6pm.
Submit an electronic version of your paper by email (WORD docx or PDF format).
Send the electronic version to dneu@uoregon.edu
Make sure you receive a confirmation that I received your paper the same day!!