HUSSERL
The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology

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Office hours: Thursdays 1:00-3:00 in SCH 245
Time and Place of class meetings: M/W 16:00-17:50 in 122 MCK

Course Description:
With the maxim “back to things themselves,” Husserl’s phenomenology has opened decisive paths towards rediscovering the world of phenomena without remaining trapped in the neo-Kantian division of mind and world. Husserl has had a major influence on many decisive 20th century philosophers such as Heidegger, Levinas, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Ricoeur, and Derrida. This course will consist in a close reading of his last and unfinished work from 1936, titled The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology: An Introduction to Phenomenological Philosophy as well as short text from the same time called “The Origin of Geometry.” According to Husserl, the crisis of the sciences rests in the objectivism of modern science that has forgotten its meaning-giving foundation in the “life-world.” In the Crisis Husserl investigates the origins of the crisis of the sciences and proposes a solution through the return to the life-world and to transcendental phenomenology. Our aim will be not only to understand what Husserl writes and to reflect on the questions his work opens up, but also to learn to think phenomenologically.

Course objectives:
- Learning to think phenomenologically (in Husserl’s sense).
- Learning about some major concepts, questions, and issues of Husserlian phenomenology.
- Understanding the role of Husserl’s phenomenology in the history of Western philosophy.
- Strengthen the ability to write a clear paper that adopts a phenomenological approach.

Required Text:

Recommended Texts:
- Michael Lewis and Tanja Staehler: Phenomenology: An Introduction (Bloomsbury, 2011) 0826439993
You may also consult the “Husserl page” for further references: http://www.husserlpage.com/

Course Requirements:
1) Mid-term comprehensive paper (4-5 pages) 25%
2) Final paper (6-9 pages for undergrads, 9-12 for grads) 50%
3) In-class attendance, participation, and short writing assignments 25%

Concerning the first requirement (mid-term):
For this paper you will need to address some guiding questions that will test your comprehension of Husserl’s text so far.
Formal requirements: The papers needs to be 4-5 pages long (no less), typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with one inch margins. Add a cover page with course information, your name and the title of the paper.

Concerning the second requirement (final paper):
For students taking PHIL 463:
Your final paper needs to be about Husserl’s Crisis (and may refer as well to “the Origin of Geometry”). You may write on a topic of your choice provided your text basis is Husserl’s Crisis. The paper should demonstrate your ability to work closely with the primary texts and to think phenomenologically. The paper should also provide thoughtful reflections on the topics it discusses.
A paper proposal should be submitted to me in writing about 3 weeks prior to its due date. The paper proposal should consist in a paragraph that explains the general topic, specific issues and questions you wish to discuss, and texts and text passages you intend to focus on.
Formal requirements: The papers needs to be 6-9 pages long (no less, no more), typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with one inch margins. Add a cover page with course information, your name and the title of the paper.
For students taking PHIL 563: A paper proposal should be submitted to me in writing about 3 weeks prior to its due date. The paper should show basic comprehension of the text, demonstrate the ability to work with the text and to think phenomenologically, and should also contain critical reflections on the course material. The paper proposal should consist in a paragraph that explains the general topic, specific issues and questions you wish to discuss, and texts and text passages you intend to focus on. You need to integrate at least two relevant secondary sources into your paper.
Formal requirements: The papers needs to be about 9-12 pages long, typed, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, with one inch margins. Add a cover page with course information, your name and the title of the paper.

Concerning the third requirement:
In-class attendance and participation has four main components. In each case, you will get participation points for fulfilling your requirements. These points will be added up and converted into grades at the end of the term.
 a) Attendance: If you miss class more than twice, your final grade will be lowered by a full grade.
 b) Comprehensive self-tests: In-class participation includes comprehensive self-tests that consist in a number of questions that you will have to answer with a few sentences or by
writing a short paragraph. It will help you to figure out if you understood the most basic concepts of Husserl’s phenomenology. You will receive 3 participation points for taking each test.

c) **Oral participation:** You will get participation points for valuable contributions in class (correct interpretations of the text, interesting questions, etc.).

d) **Short writing assignments:** You will get short writing assignments (either in class or as home-work) that encourage you to reflect on concepts and ideas we discussed in class.

**COURSE POLICIES**

1. **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.

2. In order to avoid disruptions in class you are asked to avoid exiting and entering the classroom while lectures and discussions are going on.

3. **If you miss a class** it is your responsibility to keep up with the course material. Use the syllabus as a guideline.

4. You are responsible for keeping all papers that are handed back to you.

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.
Note:
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.
Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.
If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO’s 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE TBA

The final take-home exam is due Wednesday, June 10 by email. Send your exam both formatted as WORD document and as pdf document. Expect a reply from me that tells you that I received your paper. If you don’t get a reply within 24 hours, send your paper again.