

Philosophy 391-01
Heidegger
 Xavier University, Spring 2020
 TR 10-11:15, Alter 006

Prof. Richard Polt

Hinkle 202

office hours: Tu, Wed, and Th 2-3 pm and by appointment

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Please do not communicate through Canvas.

Martin Heidegger (1889-1976) is one of the most influential philosophers of the last century; his thought is crucial to phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, and postmodernism. He is also a very controversial figure, in part due to his support for Nazism in the 1930s. In this course we will read key sections from his main work, *Being and Time* (1927), as well as two important later essays.

This is a Writing Flag course. You will develop the ability to write clearly and cogently about Heidegger, and about philosophy more generally, by revising one of your papers, keeping a reading journal, discussing writing techniques, working with peers to develop writing strategies and review each other's drafts, and meeting with me for an individual conference.

Texts

Only the following editions are acceptable. You must obtain these books *in print*.

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. Macquarrie & Robinson (Harper)

Heidegger, *Off the Beaten Track*, ISBN 978-0521805070 (Cambridge)

Suggested supplementary text: Richard Polt, *Heidegger: An Introduction* (Cornell)

Course requirements

First paper draft: 10%

First paper revision: 10%

Second paper: 20%

Third paper: 20%

Reading journal: 15%

Final exam: 10%

Class participation: 15%

The *papers* (1500+ words each) will ask you to think critically about some central ideas in our readings.

The *reading journal* is described on the next page.

The *final exam* will be a cumulative, open-book, open-note, short-essay test.

The *class participation* grade is a judgment I make at the end of the semester about the quality of your effort and your contributions to the class, based on your participation in discussions, any extra writing you may do, and your communication with me outside class.

Your *reading journal* is an opportunity to develop your own interpretations and questions about the text, in an informal style, before we discuss the text in class. A journal entry should include a very concise summary of the reading and at least one question or observation about the text that might serve to stimulate class discussion. Approximately half a double-spaced page per journal entry (150-200 words) is appropriate, but there is no upper length limit, and an occasional shorter entry is fine.

You are required to write a minimum of 20 entries; you may write more if you like. It is possible to get an A for a journal that is only the minimum length. A longer journal may raise your class participation grade.

Entries should be typed or legibly handwritten. Keep them in order from oldest to newest in a folder, and bring your entire journal, on paper, to every class meeting. I will occasionally collect the journals and give you a tentative grade.

The final grade on the journal will be determined at the end of the course. The grade will be based on the effort and care shown in your writing—in other words, the journal should demonstrate that you have been reading the assigned texts attentively and working to formulate your thoughts about them. But this is not formal writing as in a paper, and it is all right to make errors in interpretation as long as you are making an effort.

You may consult any sources you like as you write your journal, but they cannot substitute for the assigned text; they can only supplement it. Any sources must also be cited, in order to avoid plagiarism and an F (see next page).

Please note that you cannot pass the course without a complete reading journal (at least 20 entries).

Calculating your grade

I give each element a letter grade, then convert it to a number on a 4-point scale (like the scale for your GPA), with pluses and minuses counting as 0.33 point. I multiply this number by the percentage the element is worth, and add all the results to get your raw grade. This raw grade is adjusted to account for absences (see next page), and then rounded to the nearest letter grade to yield the course grade. (I round up if you are exactly between letter grades.)

For example:

First paper draft	C	$2.0 \times 10\%$	= 0.2
First paper revision	B	$3.0 \times 10\%$	= 0.3
Second paper	B	$3.0 \times 20\%$	= 0.6
Third paper	B+	$3.33 \times 20\%$	= 0.666
Reading journal	A-	$3.67 \times 15\%$	= 0.5505
Final exam	C+	$2.33 \times 10\%$	= 0.233
<u>Class participation</u>	A	$4.0 \times 15\%$	= 0.6
Raw grade			3.1495
Two absences with no makeup work			-0.2
Course grade			2.9495 = B

Policies

Electronic devices may not be used in class without permission.

Absence policy: You do not need an excuse if you miss a class, but when you return, you are expected to turn in a longer journal entry for the day you missed (about a page long). Getting someone else's class notes may be a good idea, but it is unacceptable to base your journal entry only on such notes; your work has to show that you read the text yourself. Merely using a secondary source about the assigned reading is also unacceptable, as is plagiarism from any source (see below). If you do not turn in acceptable makeup work promptly, I may subtract up to 0.1 grade point from your course grade for each day you missed. Anyone who misses more than 5 classes may fail the course, even if makeup work is turned in.

Late papers will be penalized by up to one letter grade for each day they are late.

Unacceptable essay policy: I reserve the right to reject an essay that has major flaws in spelling or grammar, or that fails to meet the minimum length. Such an essay must be brought up to minimum standards before it receives a grade, and it will be counted as late.

Papers may be rewritten. The first paper will be rewritten in any case; rewrites are optional for the second and third papers. Rewrites will not change your grade on these papers, but they will count as significant class participation. Turn in the rewrite along with the original and my original comments. Rewrites may be turned in as late as the time of the final exam.

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas, even if you rephrase them, without giving credit to the source (such as a website, book, or another student's writing). According to Xavier's Academic Honesty Policy (<https://www.xavier.edu/handbook/standards/specifically-permitted-and-prohibited-conduct/miscellaneous-policies/academic-honesty>), "unattributed use of another's efforts is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Penalties for violations of this policy may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: a zero for that assignment or test, an 'F' in the course, and expulsion from Xavier." Whenever you use sources other than the assigned text, you must cite them in footnotes or by some other standard method. Plagiarism will normally lead to an F for the assignment or the course, and your dean will be notified of the incident. For more information and a tutorial, see <https://www.xavier.edu/library/xu-tutor/xu-tutor-use>.

All course requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.

Schedule

Jan. 14	Tu	Introduction to the course
Jan. 16	Th	For today, read <i>Being and Time</i> , p. 19 (= German p. 1) and ¶2 (English pp. 24-28): raising the question of Being Write your first journal entry before class. You are not expected to “get Heidegger right.” Feel free to discuss which parts of the text are unclear and why. Suggested for all readings in <i>Being and Time</i> : Polt, <i>Heidegger</i> , chaps. 2-3. You may also, of course, read the parts of Heidegger’s text that are not assigned.
Jan. 21	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶3-4: the priority of the question of Being
Jan. 23	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶5 and pp. 58-63: the project of a phenomenology of Dasein
Jan. 28	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , p. 65, ¶9, ¶¶12-13: Dasein as Being-in-the-world
Jan. 30	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶14-16, 18: world and environment Handouts: first paper assignment; guidelines for philosophy papers
Feb. 4	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶22-24: spatiality Discussion of writing and preliminary work on paper
Feb. 6	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶25-26: the “who” and being-with
Feb. 11	Tu	First paper draft due No new reading. Be prepared to discuss your paper in class.
Feb. 13	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶27: the “they”
Feb. 18	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶29, ¶31: “state-of-mind” (<i>Befindlichkeit</i>) and understanding
Feb. 20	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶34-35: discourse, language, and idle talk
Feb. 25	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶40-41: anxiety and care First paper revision due. Also hand back your draft and my comments.
Feb. 27	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶43: reality Sign up for conferences next week.
March 3	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶44: truth
March 5	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶50-53: death Handout: second paper assignment

March 10, 12		Spring break
March 17	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶54, ¶58: conscience and guilt
March 19	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶60, ¶62: resoluteness
March 24	Tu	Second paper due. Be prepared to discuss your paper in class.
March 26	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶65, ¶72: temporality and history
March 31	Tu	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶¶73-74: historicity
April 2	Th	<i>Being and Time</i> , ¶81: the ordinary concept of time
April 7	Tu	"The Origin of the Work of Art," in <i>Off the Beaten Track</i> , pp. 1-19
April 9	Th	Easter Holiday
April 14	Tu	"The Origin of the Work of Art," pp. 19-33 Handout: third paper assignment
April 16	Th	"The Origin of the Work of Art," pp. 33-50
April 21	Tu	"The Age of the World Picture," pp. 57-66 and Appendices 1-4
April 23	Th	"The Age of the World Picture," pp. 66-73 and Appendices 5-15
April 28	Tu	Third paper due. Be prepared to discuss your paper in class.
April 30	Th	Review session Reading journal due.
May 7	Th	Final examination , 8:30-10:20