

PHIL 418 (2021-22: Term 1)

Topics in Twentieth Century Philosophy:

Phenomenology and the Philosophy of Time

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Tuesday-Thursday 3:30-5:00pm

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Office hours: TBA

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

DESCRIPTION

This course will be devoted to the problem of time in twentieth-century philosophy, especially in Continental European philosophy and Phenomenology. We will read texts by Gaston Bachelard, Henri Bergson, Martin Heidegger, Edmund Husserl, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty. We will also read important texts on time from anglophone authors, such as William James, J. M. E. McTaggart, and Alfred North Whitehead. The course will serve as an introduction to Phenomenology and to philosophical issues about time and our consciousness of time.

TEXTS

Readings will be made available through the UBC Library, hyperlink, or Canvas, as indicated on the weekly reading schedule.

If you would like to own hard copies or electronic copies of the main works, you can order the following books from your preferred bookstore. (Some of the books are pricey! Links are to amazon.ca because prices tend to be cheaper there.)

Henri Bergson, [*Time and Free Will: An Essay on the Immediate Data of Consciousness*](#)

Gaston Bachelard, [*Intuition of the Instant*](#)

Martin Heidegger, [*Being and Time*](#)

Martin Heidegger, [*The Concept of Time*](#)

Edmund Husserl, [*On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time*](#)

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, [*Phenomenology of Perception*](#)

REQUIREMENTS

- Regular attendance and participation. There will be a sign-in sheet to record attendance. 10%.
- Weekly reading assignments.
- Three reflective papers, 1500 words, responding to assigned prompts. Each paper is worth 30% of your final grade. Information with due dates will be posted in Canvas.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship rests on examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. When another person's words (i.e., phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. For further information, please see the following link about academic misconduct:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT, as well as possible further disciplinary action by the University.

EMAIL POLICY

The following guidelines apply to email communication during this course:

- I will make every effort to reply to legitimate email inquiries within 24 hours during weekdays but will likely take longer to respond to email during the weekend.
- Each email message should include in the Subject line the course identifier and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., PHIL 491: Question about Paper); otherwise, it may be deleted along with spam messages.

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SCHEDULE

Week 1: Sept 7 & 9. Introduction
Sept 7 Imagine Day (no class)
Week 2: Sept 14 & 16. McTaggart's Paradox
J. Ellis McTaggart, "The Unreality of Time," https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/stable/2248314?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents *Recommended: "John M. E. McTaggart," <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/mctaggart/ Emily Thomas, "Before, Now, and Next," <i>Aeon</i> https://aeon.co/essays/how-one-man-changed-the-meaning-of-past-present-and-future
Week 3: Sept 21 & 23. Bergson on Duration
Henri Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will: An Essay on the Immediate Data of Consciousness</i> , Preface, Chapters I & II https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/books/mono/10.4324/9781315830254/time-free-bergson-henri *Recommended: "Henri Bergson," <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/bergson/ Emily Herring, "Henri Bergson, Celebrity" https://aeon.co/essays/henri-bergson-the-philosopher-damned-for-his-female-fans
Week 4: Sept 28 & 30. Bergson on Duration
Henri Bergson, <i>Time and Free Will: An Essay on the Immediate Data of Consciousness</i> , Preface, Chapter III & Conclusion https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/books/mono/10.4324/9781315830254/time-free-bergson-henri
Week 5: Oct 5 & 7. Bachelard on the Instant
Gaston Bachelard, <i>Intuition of the Instant</i> . At Canvas
Week 6: Oct 12 & 14. Whitehead on Time
Alfred North Whitehead, <i>The Concept of Nature</i> , Chapters I, II, & III https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/core/books/concept-of-nature/25B361C16417842783605069C21AD1F6

<p style="text-align: center;">Week 7: Oct 19 & 21. James on the Perception of Time</p> <p>William James, <i>The Principles of Psychology</i>, Chapter XV: The Perception of Time https://psychclassics.yorku.ca/James/Principles/prin15.htm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 8: Oct 26 & 28. Husserl and Phenomenology</p> <p>Edmund Husserl, <i>The Idea of Phenomenology</i> https://link-springer-com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/book/10.1007%2F978-94-015-7386-3 *Recommended “Phenomenology,” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/phenomenology/</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 9: Nov 2 & 4. Husserl on Internal Time-Consciousness</p> <p>Edmund Husserl, <i>On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time (1893-1917)</i>, “The Lectures on the Consciousness of Internal Time From the Year 1905,” pp. 3-103. At Canvas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 10: 9 & 11. Heidegger on the Concept of Time</p> <p>No class Nov 11 (Midterm Break) Martin Heidegger, <i>The Concept of Time</i>. At Canvas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 11: Nov 16 & 18. Heidegger on Being-towards-death</p> <p>Martin Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i>, Division II, §§45-53. At Canvas.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 12: Nov. 23 & 25. Merleau-Ponty on Temporality</p> <p>Maurice Merleau-Ponty, <i>Phenomenology of Perception</i>, Part Three: Chapter II: Temporality. https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/books/mono/10.4324/9780203720714/phenomenology-perception-maurice-merleau-ponty</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 13: Nov 30 & Dec 1 Contemporary Connections</p> <p>“Time,” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/time/ “Temporal Consciousness,” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Consciousness</i> https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consciousness-temporal/#MetTemCon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week 14: Dec 7. Wrap Up</p>