

PHIL 418 (2025-26 Term 2): Seminar in Twentieth-Century Philosophy**3 Credits****Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:30pm.****Professor Evan Thompson.** 604-827-2071. evan.thompson@ubc.ca**Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:45-1:45 PM**

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](#).

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This course will cover foundational ideas and recent developments in the philosophical movement of Phenomenology, inaugurated by Edmund Husserl.

Texts (available at the UBC Bookstore or your preferred bookstore.)Dan Zahavi, *Husserl's Legacy*.Dan Zahavi, *Phenomenology: The Basics*, Second Edition. (Make sure you get the Second Edition.)

Other readings as indicated on the syllabus (all available at Canvas).

Requirements

1. Regular attendance and participation. There will a sign-in sheet to record attendance. 20%.
2. Short Proposal for Final Research Paper. See Canvas for details. 20%.
3. Longer Proposal for Final Research Paper. See Canvas for details. 20%
4. Final Research Paper. See Canvas for details. 40%.

Statement on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as their 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. **Using ChatGPT or other AI content generators to generate any portion of your written work counts as plagiarism in this course.** 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 review the UBC Calendar Academic regulations for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (See the UBC Calendar, under "Academic Regulations," and "Student Conduct and Discipline": <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>.)

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 with 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 418: Question about Paper).

Schedule

Week 1: January 6 & 8. Introduction

Phenomenology: The Basics, 1-19.

Heidegger, "The Phenomenological Method of Investigation" (Canvas)

Week 2: January 13 & 15. Intentionality

Phenomenology: The Basics, 20-35.

Husserl, "Consciousness as Intentional Experience" (Canvas)

Husserl, "Noesis and Noema" (Canvas)

Sartre, "Intentionality: A Fundamental Idea of Husserl's Phenomenology" (Canvas)

Week 3: January 20 & 22. Phenomenology with an Attitude

Phenomenology: The Basics, 36-48.

Husserl's Legacy, 1-29.

Husserl "Pure Phenomenology, Its Method and Its Field of Investigation" (Canvas)

Week 4. January 27 & 29. Science and the Life-World

Phenomenology: The Basics, 49-61.

Edmund Husserl, "Philosophy and the Crisis of European Humanity" (Canvas)

Week 5. February 3 & 5: Going Deeper

Phenomenology: The Basics, 62-71

Merleau-Ponty, "Preface" (to *Phenomenology of Perception*) (Canvas)

Week 6: February 10 & 12: Phenomenology and the Crisis of Humanity

Adam Frank, Marcelo Gleiser, and Evan Thompson, *The Blind Spot*, Introduction & Chapter 1.
Available at MIT Press via UBC Library: <https://direct.mit.edu/books/book/5740/The-Blind-SpotWhy-Science-Cannot-Ignore-Human>

Week 7: February 17 & 19

READING WEEK: NO CLASSES

Week 8: February 24 & 26. Metaphysics and Transcendental Philosophy

Husserl's Legacy, 30-76.

Week 9: March 3 & 5. Transcendental Idealism

Husserl's Legacy, 77-136

Week 10: March 10 & 12. Naturalism and Phenomenology

Phenomenology: The Basics, 127-176

Husserl's Legacy, 137-169

Week 11: March 17 & 19. Phenomenology and Neuroscience

Zahavi, "Brain, Mind, World: Predictive Coding, Neo-Kantianism, and Transcendental Idealism"
(Canvas)

Schlicht, "Predictive Processing's Flirt with Transcendental Idealism" (Canvas)

Week 12: March 24 & 26. Phenomenology and the Hard Problem

Frank, Gleiser, and Thompson, *The Blind Spot*, Chapter 8. Available at MIT Press via UBC
Library: <https://direct.mit.edu/books/book/5740/The-Blind-SpotWhy-Science-Cannot-Ignore-Human>

Varela, "Neurophenomenology: A Methodological Remedy for the Hard Problem" (Canvas)

Piet Hut and Roger Shepard, "Turning the Hard Problem Upside Down and Sideways" (Canvas)

Week 13: March 31 & April 2. Is Phenomenology Over?

Sparrow, *The End of Phenomenology*, Introduction, Chapters 3 & 5 (Canvas)

Week 14: April 7 & 9. Or Is Phenomenology Just Beginning?

Husserl's Legacy, 170-211