



Georges Braque. *Violin and Pitcher*. 1910

TWENTIETH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY – COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS – UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEMESTER: Fall 2017

COURSE: PHIL 3335 (CRN: 18850)

TIME AND LOCATION: T&TH 12:00-1:20pm in
Education Building 313

INSTRUCTOR: Aleksandar ("Aleks") Pjevalica
[pea-yeah-va-lee-tza]

INSTRUCTOR'S EMAIL: apjevalica@utep.edu

INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE HOURS: M&W 9:00-11:00 in
Worrell Hall 111

This course will serve as an introduction to the two dominant traditions of Western philosophy in the twentieth century: “analytic” (a.k.a. “Anglo-American”) philosophy and “Continental” (a.k.a. “European”) philosophy. As we will see, both traditions begin as reactions to, and rejections of, the prevailing influence of metaphysical idealism and psychologism in nineteenth-century German and British philosophy. Motivated by developments in mathematical logic, early twentieth-century philosophers employ the new tools of logical analysis to resolve traditional philosophical problems regarding the nature of knowledge, reality, mind and morality. These philosophers believe that philosophical questions are best approached not by *directly* studying knowledge, reality, mind and morality, but *indirectly* through an analysis of the nature of meaning, especially an analysis of the concepts of *sense*, *reference* and *intentionality*, heralding what has come to be known as the “linguistic turn” in philosophy. However, despite sharing a common starting point, analytic and Continental philosophy soon begin to diverge, and, by the middle of the century, members of both traditions begin to view each other’s (as well as their own predecessors’) approach to philosophy with considerable suspicion.

In the first half of the semester, we will trace the main contours of analytic philosophy, beginning with G. E. Moore’s and Bertrand Russell’s “realist” rebellion against British Idealism. We will then turn to

Gottlob Frege's ground-breaking theory of meaning and Bertrand Russell's equally influential theory of descriptions, followed by Ludwig Wittgenstein's logical atomism and its reception by the Logical Positivists, to their critics (including the late Wittgenstein!) in the middle of the century. We will finish our discussion of analytic philosophy by examining its dramatic "resurrection" in the 1970s by the American philosopher Saul Kripke.

In the second half of the semester, we will run through the century again, this time focussing our attention on the major currents in Continental philosophy, beginning with Edmund Husserl's phenomenology. Husserl's trail-blazing phenomenological method lays the ground for the subsequent development of twentieth-century German and French thought, including Martin Heidegger's fundamental ontology and Jean-Paul Sartre's and Simone de Beauvoir's existentialism – all milestones in the history of twentieth-century philosophy.

By the end of this course, we should: 1) be able to describe the major stages in the development of analytic and Continental philosophy, including their specific methodologies and questions of concern; 2) understand how those stages are related to each other, particularly how each stage developed from the previous stage, within each tradition; and 3) understand the main similarities and differences between both traditions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Readings for weeks 1-8 posted on Blackboard.
- Moran, Dermot, and Timothy Mooney, eds. *The Phenomenology Reader*. Routledge, 2002.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Class Participation (10%)

Students are expected to complete the reading for each class meeting and bring the readings to class. They will be called upon in class to answer questions about the reading and are expected to make thoughtful comments or to ask well-formulated questions. No question is too simple or naïve to ask! Students are expected to maintain a respectful demeanor towards each other and the instructor.

2) In-Class Writing Assignments (10%): Periodically throughout the semester I will ask you to write short in-class assignments. You will submit these assignments to me after the class session. The assignments will be graded on a Credit/No Credit basis. If you fail to submit your assignment during class or if you are absent from class, you will receive no credit for the assignment.

3) Weekly Reading Summaries (30%)

You will write **10** reading summaries over the course of the semester. Your reading summaries must cover the readings that are designated with an [*] in the schedule on this syllabus (see below). Detailed instructions for the summaries are available on Blackboard. Reading summaries will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Each summary is worth 3% of your final grade.

4) **Two Research Essays (50%)**

You will write **two 1700-2200 word papers** for this course. Detailed instructions for the essay assignments will be available on Blackboard. Here are the due dates: **Essay #1 (20%)** due Oct. 27 and **Essay #2 (30%)** due Dec. 8.

COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct Code:

- The use of electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, audio recorders, etc.) is strictly forbidden.
- Arrive to class on time.
- Do not chat with fellow classmates during the lecture/discussion.
- I expect you to participate in class discussion on a regular basis. If you have a question or comment, raise your hand (and I will call on you).
- Treat your fellow classmates with respect at all times, including during class discussion.

Note: If you violate the Classroom Conduct Code, you will be asked to leave the class.

No Extra-Credit Assignments: There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: Students who engage in scholastic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action as stated in the UTEP policy: <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm>.

Email: All class email correspondences will be conducted exclusively through the email address that you have listed with the university.

Blackboard: We will be using the Blackboard shell for our class throughout the semester. If you have not done so already, you should familiarize yourself with accessing Blackboard. I will be using Blackboard to post course materials, including the syllabus and quizzes.

Accommodation: UTEP seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified individuals with disabilities, including learning disabilities. This university will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with The Center for Accommodations and Support Services within the first two weeks of classes, and inform the faculty member to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS)
Union East Building Room 106
Phone: (915) 747-5148
Voice Fax: (915) 747-8712
Email: cass@utep.edu

SCHEDULE (provisional)

Week 1: Introduction

Aug. 29: Syllabus: Introduction to the course; Background Lecture on Rationalism and Empiricism

Aug. 31: Preface and Introduction to Second Edition of *Critique of Pure Reason* by Immanuel Kant

Week 2: The Revolt Against Idealism and Monism

Sept. 5: Selections from *Appearance and Reality* by F. H. Bradley; “The Nature of Judgement” (pp. 176-184) and “Truth” by G. E. Moore

Sept. 7: “Facts and Propositions”* from *The Philosophy of Logical Atomism* by Bertrand Russell

Week 3: Logic and Language

Sept. 12: “On Sense and Reference”* by Gottlob Frege

Sept. 14: “On Sense and Reference” by Gottlob Frege

Week 4: Logic and Language

Sept. 19: “On Denoting” by Bertrand Russell

Sept. 21: “On Denoting” by Bertrand Russell

Week 5: Logical Atomism and Logical Positivism

Sept. 26: Selections from *Tractatus-Logico Philosophicus* by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Sept. 28: Selections from *Language, Truth and Logic** by A. J. Ayer

Week 6: The Fall of Logical Positivism

Oct. 3: “Two Dogmas of Empiricism”* by W. V. O. Quine

Oct. 5: Selections from *Philosophical Investigations* Sec. 89-133 and 1-38 by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Week 7: Ordinary Language Philosophy

Oct. 10: Selections from *Philosophical Investigations* Sec. 243-311 and Sec. xi by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Oct. 12: Selections from *Intention** by G. E. M. Anscombe

Week 8: The “New” Theory of Meaning

Oct. 17: Selections from *Naming and Necessity* Lecture I by Saul Kripke

Oct. 19: Selections from *Naming and Necessity* Lecture II* by Saul Kripke

Week 9: Phenomenology

Oct. 24: “Pure Phenomenology, its Method, and its Field of Investigation” by Edmund Husserl

Oct. 26: “Noesis and Noema” by Edmund Husserl

Week 10: Phenomenology

Oct. 31: “The Phenomenology of Internal Time Consciousness”* by Edmund Husserl

Nov. 2: “The Way into Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophy . . .” by Edmund Husserl

Week 11: Hermeneutical Phenomenology

Nov. 7: “On the Problem of Empathy” by Edith Stein

Nov. 9: “The Phenomenological Method of Investigation”* by Martin Heidegger

Week 12: Hermeneutical Phenomenology

Nov. 14: “The Worldhood of the World”* by Martin Heidegger

Nov. 16: “The Worldhood of the World” by Martin Heidegger

Week 13: Hermeneutical Phenomenology

Nov. 21: “Elements of a Theory of Hermeneutic Experience” by Hans-Georg Gadamer

Nov. 23: THANKSGIVING – UNIVERSITY CLOSED

Week 14: Existential Phenomenology

Nov. 28: “The Transcendence of the Ego” by Jean-Paul Sartre

Nov. 30: “Destiny” and “Woman’s Situation and Character”* by Simone de Beauvoir

Week 15: Phenomenology and Ethics

Dec. 5: “Labor, Work, Action” by Hannah Arendt

Dec. 7: “Ethics and the Face” and “Beyond Intentionality” by Emmanuel Levinas