

# PHIL 41055 / 51055 : Phenomenology

Fall 2009 W 5:30-8:15 Bowman 315

Professor: Gina Zavota  
Office: 320 Bowman Hall, Room G  
Office Hours M 11:30-12:30; 3:30-5:30  
W 11:30-12:30; 3:30-4:30, and by appointment

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an in-depth study of the phenomenological movement in twentieth-century philosophy, from its origin in the thought of Edmund Husserl and his contemporaries, through such canonical thinkers as Martin Heidegger and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, to various contemporary developments. Philosophers from the German, French, and English-language traditions will be studied, along with scholars applying phenomenological ideas to disciplines such as psychology, sociology and pedagogy. This is in keeping with the overall focus in this seminar on phenomenology not as a philosophical school, but as a methodology with broad and diverse applications.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts: *The Phenomenology Reader*, ed. Dermot Moran and Timothy Mooney (Routledge)  
Course Packet, available at WordSmiths, 402 E. Main St, (330) 677-9673 (Packet #90)

For each class meeting, you will be expected to read the assigned pages and to arrive prepared to discuss them. **Each day, please bring the texts we will be covering on that day with you to class.** Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, careful study of the texts, and presentations by seminar participants.

**Assignments:** Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on the following:

- **Short Essays** – During the course of the semester, you will be required to write two papers, each approximately five pages long, on assigned topics. These papers are meant to assess not only your understanding of the main arguments presented in the texts we will read, but also your ability to see the implications of, and respond critically to, these arguments.
- **Final Paper (Graduates)** – Your final assignment will be a paper of 15-20 pages in length in which you will state and defend an original thesis of your choosing relating to one or more of the texts we will read. You will also complete two preliminary assignments during the semester, which will help you develop your final essay. More details will be provided over the course of the semester.
- **Final Exam (Undergraduates)** – Undergraduates will take a cumulative, closed-book essay exam during exam week. If you would like to write a final paper (of at least ten pages) instead, you *must* see me in advance to have your topic approved.
- **Presentations (Graduates)** – You will lead one class meeting for approximately 45 minutes; during this time, you will be responsible for discussing the most important points made in one of the texts assigned for that class, responding to questions, and leading the discussion following your formal presentation. You will also hand in a summary of the text. This will count for 15% of your final grade.
- **Response Papers (Undergraduates)** – Each undergraduate will hand in brief (2 page) responses to four of the readings we will be covering over the course of the semester. Students must decide

which pieces they will respond to by the end of the third week of class; in each case, the response will be due on the date the reading is covered in class. The lowest grade will be dropped, and each of the other three will count for 5% of your final grade. A more detailed description of this assignment will be handed out later in the semester.

- **Class Participation** – For each class meeting, you will be expected to read the designated selections and arrive prepared to discuss them. I would suggest that you take notes while reading, especially if you have questions you would like to ask in class. While attendance and punctuality will be taken into account in the calculation of your participation grade, it will primarily reflect the extent to which you make meaningful contributions to class discussions (this includes asking questions about material that you don't understand).

## GRADING PRACTICES

Your final numerical grade will be calculated using the percentages given in the table on the left. It will then be translated into a letter grade using the scale in the table on the right.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Short Essays	20% each
Final Paper or Exam	35%
Presentations (grads) or Response Papers (undergrads)	15%
Participation	10%
Total	100%

Total Points	Final Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
and so on...	
67-69	D+
60-66	D
<60	F

I expect all students to complete all assignments in a timely fashion. Students who do not think they will be able to complete an assignment on time *must* see me before the assignment is due to discuss their situation and arrange an alternate schedule for completion of the work. **Assignments which are simply submitted late will be penalized 10% of their total possible point value for each class that they are late.**

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Students with Disabilities:** University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Disability Services (contact (330) 672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sds](http://www.kent.edu/sds) for more information on registration procedures).

**Academic Dishonesty:** In accordance with University Policy 3342-3-07 in the *University Policy Register*, cheating and plagiarism are punishable by several possible sanctions, including (but not limited to) refusal to accept coursework for credit, assigning a grade of "F" or zero to an assignment, assigning a grade of "F" for



<b>Week 9</b>	<b>10/28</b>	Rogers, "A Theory of Personality and Behavior" (CP)  <b>Phenomenology and Sociology</b> Ortega Y Gasset, "Being in One's Self and Being Beside One's Self" (CP) Schutz, "Indirect Social Relationships" (CP)	
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>11/4</b>	Garfinkel, "The Rational Properties of Scientific..." (CP) Gurwitsch, "Partnership" (CP) Berger and Luckman, excerpts from <i>The Social Construction of Reality</i> (CP)	
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>VETERANS' DAY</b>	
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>11/18</b>	<b>Phenomenology and Pedagogy</b> Texts TBD (Guest Speaker)	<b>PAPER #2 DUE</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>11/25</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>	
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>12/2</b>	<b>Phenomenology and Feminism</b> Smith, "Sociology from Women's Experience" (CP) Bartky, "Toward a Phenomenology of Feminist Consciousness" (CP) Young, "Throwing Like a Girl" (CP)	
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>12/9</b>	TBD	

**THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DEC 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:45-8:00 PM,  
IN BOWMAN 315  
THE FINAL PAPER WILL BE DUE BY 5:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, DEC 16<sup>th</sup>  
IN MY MAILBOX IN BOWMAN 320**