

Special Topics: Heidegger's *Being and Time*
Kent State University Course Syllabus:

PHIL 59995/001/19601 Spring 2024
TR: 12:30-1:45 pm Location: BOW 315
Instructor: Dr. Matthew Coate
Office: BOW 320 F
Office hours: M 12:30-4:30
 TR 5:00-5:30 (or by appointment)

Contact: mcoate@kent.edu (330) 672-3965

Course Description:

Course Description for PHIL 49995/59995 in Spring 2024:

This semester's special topics course will focus exclusively on Martin Heidegger's *Being and Time*, which is often cited as the most important work of philosophy from the 20th century and is inarguably one of the most influential works in the history of philosophy. You will be assigned to read around thirty pages of Heidegger's magnum opus a week, and this will allow us to discuss the entirety of the text over the next sixteen weeks, with the exception of only a couple of short sections. What we will hopefully all discover is that *Being and Time* constitutes an almost limitless fount of ideas concerning our self-identities or sense-of-self and the way that we make sense of our worlds, and provides a systematic account of our self-awareness and sense-making that fundamentally links these with our sense of *time* or the "temporality" of our existence. Most of these ideas have been immeasurably influential, although some of them, we will find, have also been greatly misunderstood; many of these ideas will appear profoundly significant for the understanding and improvement of our world, too, although some of them, we will find, are likely to appear highly problematic as well. One way or the other, however, my hope is that by approaching the text with an open mind, we'll each find that reading *Being and Time* provokes us into a renewed commitment to *thinking*, just as Heidegger intended.

Course objectives:

- To learn about and demonstrate, in both discussion and writing, an understanding of *Being and Time*, its central ideas, and argumentation;
- To develop the ability to formulate, explicate, and defend theses about the themes of *Being and Time* in written essays; and
- To increase, not only our own understanding of the Heideggerian analyses of human existence, but our ability to reflect on the nature and essence of our own human existence for ourselves.

Course requirements:

Required text:

- Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, translated by John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson, Harper Perennial Modern Classics (ISBN-13: 978-0061575594)

Grading:

<input type="checkbox"/> Term Paper	1 @ 40%	40%
<input type="checkbox"/> Midterm Papers	2 @ 20%	40%
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation	1 @ 20%	20%

Term Paper:

A term paper of 4000-5000 words (roughly 15-20 double-spaced pages) will be required from each graduate student. The topic will be of your choosing, although before the end of Week 12, I expect each grad student to meet with me to discuss their paper topic. The term paper will be worth 40% of your final class grade and will be due on the day of our scheduled final exam.

Midterm Writing Assignments:

In addition to the final term paper, grad students will have to complete two midterm writing assignments of 1500-2000 words (roughly 6-8 double-spaced) pages. In these shorter papers, you'll have to explicate the account presented in one of the chapters of *Being and Time* along with the main evidence, analyses, or arguments presented to support it, and you'll then have to evaluate the account, presenting at least one strong objection before providing a possible response to this objection. One of the two midterm writing assignments that you complete may be used as the basis of your final term paper. Each will be worth 20% of your grade, for a total of 40%, and will be due on the dates indicated in the class schedule that I have provided below.

Presentation:

Each grad student will be required to give a 30-minute presentation on one of our readings. You will have to select a presentation date by the end of Week 2; more information about the assignment, which will count for 20% of your final grade, will be provided by me at that time.

University services and policies:**Enrollment and registration statement:**

The official registration deadline for self-adding this course is 1/22/24. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

The course withdrawal deadline is 4/1/24. The last day to drop without a "W" being assigned will be 1/29/24.

Student Accessibility Services statement:

Kent State University is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. University Policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to course content. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible to establish accommodations. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic medical conditions, or injuries), please let me know immediately.

SAS can be reached at (330) 672-3391. Please visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures.

Personal responsibility and academic integrity statement:

University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at <http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/index.cfm> and/or ask.

Please note that any instances of plagiarism will be reported and dealt with in accordance with the policies stipulated in section 3-01.8. Sanctions for a “traditionally” plagiarized assignment will, at the very least, include receiving a 0% on the plagiarized assignment, but may also include more severe consequences as the situation warrants. Sanctions for assignments plagiarized using AI text-generating apps will be more severe and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the semester. Text-generating apps may not be used in any way for written assignments under any circumstances.

I really don't really expect to discover plagiarism in any grad student's work, in particular, because I know that as grad students you are ultimately here because you love studying philosophy for its own sake. In addition, I know that deep down, most of us in philosophy are opinionated buggers anyways who would likely rather die than present some other idiot's inadequate opinion as our own; self-plagiarism is usually more of an issue for most of us than “plagiarism” plagiarism. Nevertheless, time constraints and a felt need to submit “perfect” work occasionally might lead even some grad students into temptation, and because of this I should note that the sanctions for academic dishonesty for any grad student who commits such a violation are especially severe, given the absolute severity of the violation when it's a graduate student who commits it. Please remember that you are not expected to produce “perfect” work, here or anywhere, but only to complete all of your assignments and express your understanding of the material and your passion for it to the best of your ability.

Attendance Policy:

Grad students are expected to attend every class and should never miss class for anything but the most unavoidable circumstance. Any grad student missing more than two classes will have to speak to me personally about the reason for their absences, and will risk whatever penalty that I deem appropriate given the circumstances, up to and including failure of the class.

Please note that given H.B. 353, which took effect this past Spring 2023 Semester, students must be reasonably accommodated in regard to academic requirements, including exams and academic absences, for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices. Under this bill, it is required that students be permitted up to three days of absence per semester, without penalty, for religious holidays or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of any religious or spiritual organization. To ensure compliance with H.B. 353, Kent State University adopted a new administrative policy regarding accommodations for student religious and spiritual beliefs (3-01.14). Under current guidance, students need to submit a request in writing to the instructor within 14 days after the first day of instruction. To review the current policy, see [the relevant webpage for the Office for the Provost](#).

Electronic device policy:

Cel phones and smart phone devices may not be used in class at any time. Laptops or tablets are also prohibited, except if a student has received prior permission from me for their use in class (for note-taking or other academic purposes only, of course).

Grade scale:

A =	92-100%	4.0 per credit hour
A- =	90-92%	3.7 per credit hour
B+ =	88-90%	3.3 per credit hour
B =	82-88%	3.0 per credit hour
B- =	80-82%	2.7 per credit hour
C+ =	78-80%	2.3 per credit hour
C =	72-78%	2.0 per credit hour
C- =	70-72%	1.7 per credit hour
D =	68-70%	1.3 per credit hour
D+ =	60-68%	1.0 per credit hour
F =	0 - 60%	0.0 per credit hour

Schedule is subject to change!!! Readings are due on the day listed!

<input type="checkbox"/> week 1:			
Tuesday 1/16	Class Introduction		
Thursday 1/18	Introduction Chapter I §1-4	read: p. 21-35	
<input type="checkbox"/> week 2:			
Tuesday 1/23	Introduction Chapter I §5, 7-8	read: p. 36-40, 49-64	
Thursday 1/25	Division I Chapter I §9-11	read: p. 65-77	Due: Friday 1/26 Scheduling of Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/> week 3:			
Tuesday 1/30	Division I Chapter II §12-13	read: p. 78-90	
Thursday 2/1	Division I Chapter III §14-16	read: p. 91-107	
<input type="checkbox"/> week 4:			
Tuesday 2/6		§17-18	read: p. 107-122
Thursday 2/8		§22-25	read: p. 134-148
<input type="checkbox"/> week 5:			
Tuesday 2/13	Division I Chapter IV §26-27	read: p. 149-168	
Thursday 2/15	Division I Chapter V §28-30	read: p. 169-182	
<input type="checkbox"/> week 6:			
Tuesday 2/20		§31-32	read: p. 182-195
Thursday 2/22		§33-34	read: p. 195-210 Due: Friday, 2/23 Midterm Paper #1
<input type="checkbox"/> week 7:			
Tuesday 2/27		§35-38	read: p. 210-224

Thursday 2/29	Division I Chapter VI §39-41	read: p. 225-241	
□ week 8:			
Tuesday 3/5	§42-43	read: p. 241-256	
Thursday 3/7	Division II Chapter I §45-47	read: p. 274-285	
□ week 9:			
Tuesday 3/12	§48-50	read: p. 285-296	
Thursday 3/14	§51-53	read: p. 296-311	
□ week 10:			
Tuesday 3/19	Division II Chapter II §54-57	read: p. 312-325	
Thursday 3/21	§58	read: p. 325-335	
□ week 11:			
Tuesday 3/26	No Class: Spring Break!		
Thursday 3/28	No Class: Spring Break!		
□ week 12:			
Tuesday 4/2	§59-60	read: p. 335-348	
Thursday 4/4	Division II Chapter III §61-63	read: p. 349-364	Due: Friday, 4/5 Midterm Paper #2
□ week 13:			
Tuesday 4/9	§64-66	read: p. 364-382	
Thursday 4/11	Division II Chapter IV §67-68	read: p. 383-396	Due: Friday 4/12 Selection of Macro topic
□ week 14:			
Tuesday 4/16	§68-69	read: p. 396-408	
Thursday 4/18	§69-71	read: p. 408-423	
□ week 15:			
Tuesday 4/23	Division II Chapter V §72-74	read: p. 424-439	
Thursday 4/25	§75-76	read: p. 439-449	
□ week 16:			
Tuesday 4/30	Division II Chapter VI §78-80	read: p. 456-472	
Thursday 5/2	§81, 83	read: p. 472-480, 486-488	
□ Finals week:			
Friday 5/10			Due: Friday 5/10 Final Term Paper!