

CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY PHH3111
NATHAN ROTHSCHILD
SPRING 2022 SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

A study of selected works by 19th and 20th century continental philosophers. Specifically, in this course we will primarily read texts by Kierkegaard, Marx, and Heidegger. These texts will be used to call into question the view that the solitary individual is the ground of human thought and action. Taken together the course materials challenge the target understanding of the subject along three axes. First, they maintain that being a subject is an achievement. Second, these texts argue that human thought and action is possible only insofar as it is located within a wider context of intelligibility such as that provided by a particular social structure or form of life. Finally, these texts argue that the subject is historically constituted due to the dependence of subjectivity on shared practices. What it is to be a subject is determined by how we understand ourselves, and how we understand ourselves determines, and is determined by, shared practices that can and do change.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

Prof. Nathan Rothschild

Email: njrothschild@ufl.edu

Office: Griffin Floyd 311

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:30pm

Thursday 2:00-3:30pm

Office Hours Zoom Address: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4225788584>

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

Time: T/R periods 5-6/6

Location: MAT 005/004

REQUIRED TEXTS

Fear and Trembling, Soren Kierkegaard, ISBN: 0521612691

Being and Time, Martin Heidegger, ISBN: 1438432763

Radical Hope, Jonathan Lear, ISBN 0674027469

REQUIREMENTS

2 750 word papers	20%
3 Thesis Assignments	10 %
Paper draft	5%
3000-3500 word paper	35%
Discussion posts	10%
Leading discussion	5%
Class preparation, attendance and participation	15%

The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

PAPERS: Papers are due by noon on their respective due dates. Please submit an electronic copy to Canvas.

- You must ask for an extension at least three days in advance (barring an emergency). Late papers will be penalized one third of a letter grade for each day beyond the due date.
- Papers should be in 12pt font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins and stapled. They also must include a word count. Papers which do not conform to these specifications will lose one third of a grade.
- There will be two types of papers in the course, shorter analytic expositions and a longer (roughly 12-14 page) final paper.
- Analytic expositions: These short papers will focus on articulating one central claim made by an author we are reading.
- There will be an analytic exposition assignment for each author. However, students are only required to write 2 analytic expositions. Thus, each student is required to choose 2 of the 3 assignments. The assignment(s) for each author will be circulated a couple days before it is due. These papers are intended primarily as a means to solidify your grasp of a given author. It is recommended that you write an analytic exposition on the author(s) you hope to deal with in your final paper.
- Final Paper: Students are also required to write a longer, final paper on a topic of their choosing.
- Students are required to submit a draft of their final paper. This draft will be graded.

THESIS ASSIGNMENTS: There will be three short writing assignments aimed at developing the students' ability to formulate the kind of main claim that can drive a longer philosophy paper.

- For these assignments, student will submit a claim that could serve as the thesis of their final paper.
- Along with this thesis, students will need to provide a short explanation of their claim's significance, i.e., why it is worth writing about.

DISCUSSION POSTS: Students are responsible for submitting one discussion post a week. Posts can be about material we have already covered or about material we will cover in the upcoming class.

- Posts are due by Friday at 4pm.
- Unless it is a response to another student's post, a post should either ask *one* question about the current reading or offer an interpretation of *one* of the reading's key claims or concepts. There are other kinds of good posts, but this is the place to start.
- Each post should reflect a thoughtful and serious engagement with the text. As a general rule of thumb, a post should be roughly 1-2 paragraphs long. Students are encouraged to respond to the discussion questions posted by the discussion leaders, although this is not required. Discussion posts that do not reflect a serious engagement with the material will not receive credit.
- Every discussion post beyond the first that is missed (or does not receive credit), will cost the student 10% of their grade for the discussion posts. For example, if a student misses 2 posts they will receive a 90% for the discussion posts, 3 and they will receive an 80%, and so on.
- On the other hand, if a student takes part in the online discussion over and above their one required post it will be factored into their participation grade for the course.

LEADING DISCUSSION: Every week a small number of students will be responsible for taking a more active lead in guiding and contributing to our class conversation. These students will be responsible for developing and posting three discussion questions on Monday. The selected students will also be expected to take on a larger role in class discussion the following Tuesday. Students will be assessed on the quality of their questions, contribution to class discussion, *and extent to which the class as a whole makes progress answering their questions*. This is group work. All three students will receive the same grade.

- The assigned students must develop (at least) three discussion questions which they post to Canvas no later than 8pm on Monday.
- We will begin class by trying to answer these questions with the discussion leaders leading our conversation.
- The discussion leaders must coordinate their questions. Thus, the discussion questions should not be repetitive. They may be on the same topic, one may grow out of the next, but each question must be formulated with an awareness of the other questions asked.
- Discussion leaders do not need to post to the discussion board that week in addition to these questions, although of course they are free to do so.

POLICIES

CLASS DEMEANOR AND PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Students must also come to class prepared. This means keeping current on the reading assignments and being aware of the course schedule and activities, as presented in this syllabus, discussed in class,

and announced on the course website. It also means bringing the day's reading to class.

- For an absence to be excused you must provide the relevant written proof (e.g., a note from the Dean of Students).

RECORDING LECTURES: I will not be recording anything.

TEXTS: For the required texts, students *must purchase the editions listed on the syllabus*. We will examine passages from these texts in class. As a result, it is imperative that students do not use different editions or translations.

- Students may use tablets and laptops to access the Canvas readings in class. These electronic devices may only be used in class for this purpose.

OUTSIDE SOURCES: Do not use texts or internet sources outside of those listed on the syllabus. If you would like to use an outside source when writing your paper, please clear the text with me first.

OFFICE HOURS: I strongly encourage you to take advantage of office hours. Come by to talk over the paper you are considering writing, or to simply think through questions about the course material.

- I prefer to schedule my office hours by appointment, but drop-ins are great too. If you know you want to come, get in touch and we will arrange a time.

EMAIL: Email is an essential mode of communication in the course. Students are expected to read all email they receive concerning the course and to do so in a timely fashion.

- *Be sure set your Canvas notifications to "Notify me right away."* I will proceed on the assumption that you have done so.
- If you want to reach me by email, please do so via UF email and not via Canvas. If you have substantive philosophical questions, email is not the best place for these; please come visit me in office hours.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Please make sure to turn off and put away all electronic devices before class period begins.

- For the one exception to this rule see "Texts" above.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

PLAGIARISM: You are encouraged to work and exchange ideas with your fellow classmates, and you are heartily encouraged to share drafts of written work. However, you must compose and submit your own papers. Doing otherwise is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is the presenting of another's work as one's own. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

If you are not sure if something counts as plagiarism consult the Honor Code. If you are still unsure, please, do not hesitate to ask.

MAKE UP EXAMS: Requirements for make-up exams are consistent with university policies specified at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE MATERIALS

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide constructive and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results will be available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

CANVAS E-LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. This course is supplemented by online content in the e-Learning environment known as "Canvas." To login to the e-Learning site for this course, go to <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>, click the **e-Learning Login** button under, and on the next page enter your Gatorlink username and password. Logging in will take you to the "My Workspace" page, where you can access the course e-Learning environment by clicking on the course name in the banner toward the top of the page.

- Check "Readings" for all readings, which is under the "Pages" tab.
- Check the "Announcements" and "Calendar" tools in the e-Learning environment for new course content (such as recommended readings) and due dates for assignments.

The official recommended system requirements for e-learning in Canvas are a broadband Internet connection and a fully updated and compatible browser. For Windows based PCs: Firefox 3.x or Internet Explorer 7.x or 8.x. For Macs: Firefox 3.0 or Safari 4.x. (Other browsers such as Opera, Chrome, etc. are not recommended for use with Canvas) If you encounter any difficulties logging in or accessing any of the course content, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-4537. Do not contact the course instructor regarding computer issues.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS *

Week 1

1/6 Introduction

Week 2

1/11 Kierkegaard: *The Present Age*

1/13 Kierkegaard: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (pp. 625-630)
Fear and Trembling, (pp. 2-46),
Evans: Introduction to *Fear and Trembling* (pp. vi-xix)

Week 3

1/18 Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*, (pp. 46-71), Evans, Introduction to *Fear and Trembling* (pp. xix-xxx)

1/20 Kierkegaard: *Fear and Trembling*, (pp. 71-109)

Week 4

1/25 Kierkegaard: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (pp. 159-88)

1/27 Kierkegaard: *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (pp. 70-93, 189-213)

Week 5

2/1 Lear: *A Case for Irony* (Lecture I, pp. 3-37)

2/3 Marx: *Ethical and Political Manuscripts* (pp. 70-106, focus 70-81)

2/4 **Kierkegaard exposition due**

Week 6

2/7 **Kierkegaard thesis assignment due**

2/8 Marx: "Wage Labor and Capital"

Marx: *Capital Volume 1* (pp. 125-139)

Marx: *Capital Volume 1* (pp. 250-7)

2/10 Marx: *Capital Volume 1* (pp. 293-306)

Marx: *Grundrisse* (pp. 259-262, 354-366)

Week 7

2/15 Marx: *Grundrisse* (pp. 17-18, 100-101, 239-250)

Marx: *Grundrisse* (pp. 23-45) **optional**

2/17 Althusser: "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus."

Week 8

2/22 Marx: *Capital Volume 1* (pp. 138-177)

2/24 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (Preface and Introduction I, Preface to Division One, §9)
Frede: "The Question of Being: Heidegger's Project"

2/25 **Marx exposition due**

Week 9

2/28 **Marx thesis assignment due**

3/1 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (§12-13)

Heidegger: *Basic Problems of Phenomenology* (§15a-b), **available on Canvas**

- William Blattner: *Heidegger's Being and Time* (III, 33-48), **available on Canvas**
3/3 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (§14-16, 18)
Heidegger: *Basic Problems of Phenomenology* (§15c), **available on Canvas**

Week 10

Spring break

Week 11

- 3/15 Heidegger, *Being and Time* (I.IV):
Hubert Dreyfus: *Being-in-the-World* (Ch. 8, "The 'Who' of Everyday Dasein," p. 141-163),
available on Canvas
3/17 Heidegger, *Being and Time* (I.V §28-32)

Week 12

- 3/22 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (I.V §38)
Haugeland: "Truth and Finitude" (187-205), **available on Canvas**
3/24 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (I.VI §39-41)
3/25 Heidegger exposition due

Week 13

- 3/29 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (II.I §§45-53)
William Blattner: "The Concept of Death in Being and Time," **available on canvas**
3/31 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (II.I §§45-53)
4/1 Heidegger thesis assignment due

Week 14

- 4/5 Heidegger: *Being and Time* (§§54-58 and §60, §62, §64 **focus on §60 and §62**)
4/7 Lear: *Radical Hope* (Part 1)

Week 15

- 4/12 Lear: *Radical Hope* (Parts 2-3)
4/14 Diamond: "Losing One's Concepts"
4/15 Paper draft due

Week 16

- 4/19 Diamond: "Losing One's Concepts"
Final paper workshop
4/21 **No class, reading period**

Exam Week

- 4/25 Final Paper due**

*As with all class schedules this one is not set in stone. It may change depending on where the material takes us.