

Humanities Tutorial: Heidegger's Middle Period

Shimer College

Spring 2014

TBD Classroom

Wednesday, 11:30-12:50

Instructor: Adam Kotsko
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Course Description

This course offers an opportunity for students in last semester's course over Heidegger's *Being and Time* to deepen their knowledge of Heidegger's work, with a focus on texts from around the time of the publication of *Being and Time* up until the completion of Heidegger's next major work, *Contributions to Philosophy: On the Event*. We will begin with *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, a seminar in which Heidegger worked through much of the material that he promised to discuss in the unpublished portions of the original plan of *Being and Time* and work through at least two more book-length texts, to be determined on the basis of student interest.

Learning Objectives

Knowledge:

- Students will be able to give an account of the development of Heidegger's thought during his "middle period" (between *Being and Time* and the *Contributions*).
- Students will be able to give an account of the roots of Heidegger's project in the Western philosophical tradition.

Communication:

- Students will be able to discuss texts of great complexity with clarity and nuance, both orally and in writing.

Critical Thinking:

- Students will be able to accurately recount and assess Heidegger's arguments and his interpretations of other philosophers, both orally and in writing.

Application:

- Students will apply the philosophical vocabulary developed in the *Being and Time* course to other major works of Heidegger.
- Students will bring the knowledge of philosophy gained elsewhere in the core to bear in assessing Heidegger's readings of the Western philosophical tradition.

Collaboration:

- Students will collectively determine the reading list for the course, with guidance from the instructor.
- Students will collectively work through complex arguments by means of careful attention to the details of the text.

Ethics:

- Students will engage seriously and respectfully with texts that may initially appear baffling and even nonsensical.
- Students will demonstrate readiness to approach texts that have viewpoints that are foreign or even inimical to their own.

Tentative Initial Reading Schedule

January 15: *Basic Problems*, Intro, Part One, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-76)
January 22: *Basic Problems*, Part One, Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 77-176)
January 29: *Basic Problems*, Part One, Chapter 4 (pp. 177-226)
February 5: *Basic Problems*, Part Two, Chapter 1, §19 (pp. 227-273)
February 12: *Basic Problems*, Part Two, Chapter 1, §20-22 (pp. 274-330)

Future readings TBD.