

**Humanities Elective:  
Heidegger's *Being and Time***

Fall 2013

MWF 11:30-12:50

Radical 2 Classroom

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**Course Introduction**

Martin Heidegger is widely recognized as one of the most influential philosophers of the twentieth century, and *Being and Time* is arguably his most creative and ground-breaking work. In it, he attempts to lay the groundwork for rethinking the “meaning of Being” in relation to the concept of time, and along the way he investigates human beings in their relationship to everyday objects, language, the social world, death, guilt, and history. We will spend the semester working through this text in close detail, both because of its intrinsic interest and as an exercise in grappling with a major work of philosophy.

**Course Goals**

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to

- follow a sustained philosophical argument in fine-grained detail, in broad overview, and at levels in between—and demonstrate that in writing and through discussion
- make precise and informed use of Heidegger’s technical philosophical vocabulary
- pick up another major philosophical text and work through it, on their own or with a reading group

**Required Readings**

There is only one required reading for this course: Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. John Macquarrie and Edward Robinson (New York: Harper, 1962 and 2008). ISBN: 0061575593. Price: \$19.99.

Another English translation has appeared, by noted Heidegger scholar Joan Stambaugh. This translation is also very good, and you may find it helpful to cross-compare if you find a passage especially puzzling, but—along with many readers of Heidegger—I still prefer the older Macquarrie and Robinson translation and will expect you to bring the assigned edition with you for every class session. Students with German knowledge may wish to consult the original, *Sein und Zeit*, which is available at the IIT library and is not prohibitively expensive (it is normally in stock at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore in Hyde Park and on Amazon.com).

**Required Assignments**

**Participation (50% of final grade):** While the readings for each class session are relatively short by Shimer standards (normally around 15 pages), they are dense and difficult. Working through them as a group will require focus and discipline as we come to terms with Heidegger’s unique vocabulary and approach. Come prepared with questions and *a marked text*. On sessions designated as review days, you should go back over the chapters noted, and students who have signed up to write a review paper (see below) will be expected to take up a leadership role in that day’s discussion.

This course will follow the standard Shimer attendance policy—more than three absences will put you in danger of failing the course, and each absence will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

**Writing (50% of final grade):** Written work for this course will include three different kinds of assignments, two of which will contribute directly to our class discussion and one of which will be more open-ended. All written work must be submitted via e-mail in a format readable by Microsoft Word, preferably not PDF.

A sign-up sheet for the shorter written assignments that are tied to certain class sessions will be made available via Google Drive and should be completed by Monday, August 26.

*Short summaries* (10% of final grade): These papers will be brief summaries of the reading for a given class session: giving the overall flow of the argument, noting any new concepts or terms, and generally highlighting anything of particular note within the reading. Please note that the goal here is to assess your understanding of the text, not your opinion about it. While quotations should be included, they should not be lengthy block quotes.

The short summaries should be approximately one *single-spaced* page in length (or in any case fit on one piece of paper) and should be in the instructor's e-mail inbox by 8:00 on the morning of the class session for which the reading in question is assigned. They will be distributed to the entire class for their reference. Each student will be expected to do two summaries.

*Review paper* (15% of final grade): These papers will provide an overview of a larger unit of Heidegger's text (a chapter), with a focus on how it fits into the book as a whole. As with the short summaries, they should be text-centered and include quotations (perhaps including limited use of block quotes). The questions in your mind as you write this paper should be things like how it builds on previous chapters, what new topics or questions it introduces, what concepts it clarifies or complicates, etc.

The review paper should be approximately three to four *double-spaced* pages in length. They should be in the instructor's e-mail inbox by 8:00 on the morning of the class session for which the reading in question is assigned. They will be distributed to the entire class as a way of orienting our discussion on review days. Each student will be expected to do one review paper. (Review days each cover two chapters, and each student will write about one individual chapter, not both.)

*Final paper* (25% of final grade): This assignment is more open-ended, and you should consult with me on your topic as early as practicable. It should be approximately 10-12 double-spaced pages in length and must include ample quotations from Heidegger. Possible topics include tracing a particular concept or theme throughout *Being and Time*, comparing Heidegger's treatment of a specific topic with that of another work in the Shimer curriculum, or summarizing and assessing one or more scholarly articles on *Being and Time*.

All writing in this course is subject to Shimer’s plagiarism policy. All work must be the student’s own, and all direct quotations and paraphrases must be unambiguously designated as such and clearly cited. Plagiarism could result in failure of the course or dismissal from Shimer.

### Class Schedule and Readings

*Note:* The symbol § refers to numbered sections within each chapter—these headings are designated with a paragraph symbol in the translation. Page numbers refer to the Macquarrie and Robinson translation. (This edition sometimes includes foreign-language quotations, but don’t panic: translations are provided in the endnotes.)

Wednesday	August 21	Translator’s preface, untitled first page (with Greek quotation and long footnotes), Introduction I, §§1-4 (pp. xxiii-35)
Friday	August 23	Introduction II, §5-6 (pp. 36-49)
Monday	August 26	Introduction II, §7-8 (pp. 49-65)
Wednesday	August 28	<i>Division I</i> summary (pg. 65), Chapter 1, §§9-11 (pp. 67-77)
Friday	August 30	Chapter 2, §§12-13 (pp. 78-90)
Monday	September 2	<b>Labor Day—NO CLASS</b>
Wednesday	September 4	Review of Chapters 1 and 2
Friday	September 6	Chapter 3, §§14-16 (pp. 91-107)
Monday	September 9	Chapter 3, §§17-18 (pp. 107-122)
Wednesday	September 11	Chapter 3, part B, §§19-21 (pp. 122-134)
Friday	September 13	Chapter 3, part C, §§22-24 (pp. 134-148)
Monday	September 16	Chapter 4, §§25-27 (pp. 148-168; include unnumbered intro section)
Wednesday	September 18	Review of Chapters 3 and 4
Thursday	September 19	Chapter 5, §§28-30 (pp. 169-182)
Friday	September 20	<b>N.B.: Class meets on Thursday rather than Friday</b> <b>Presidential Inauguration—NO CLASS</b>
Monday	September 23	Chapter 5, §§31-32 (pp. 182-195)
Wednesday	September 25	Chapter 5, §§33-34 (pp. 195-210)
Friday	September 27	Chapter 5, part B, §§35-38 (210-224)
Monday	September 30	Chapter 6, §§39-41 (pp. 224-241)
Wednesday	October 2	Chapter 6, §§42-43 (pp. 241-256)
Friday	October 4	Chapter 6, §44 (pp. 256-273)
Monday	October 7	Review of Chapters 5 and 6
Wednesday	October 9	<i>Division II</i> , §45; Chapter 1, §§46-47 (pp. 274-290)
Friday	October 11	Chapter 1, §§48-51 (pp. 290-299)

Monday	October 14	<b>Dean's Break—NO CLASS</b>
Wednesday	October 16	<b>Dean's Break—NO CLASS</b>
Friday	October 18	Chapter 1, §§52-53, Chapter 2, §54 (pp. 299-315)
Monday	October 21	Chapter 2, §§55-57 (pp. 315-325)
Wednesday	October 23	Chapter 2, §58 (pp. 325-335)
Friday	October 25	Chapter 2, §§59-60 (pp. 335-348)
Monday	October 28	Review of Chapters 1 and 2
Wednesday	October 30	Chapter 3, §§61-63 (pp. 349-364)
Friday	November 1	Chapter 3, §§64-66 (pp. 364-382)
Monday	November 4	Chapter 4, §§67-68 (pp. 383-401)
Wednesday	November 6	Chapter 4, §§69-71 (pp. 401-423)
Friday	November 8	Review of Chapters 3 and 4
Monday	November 11	Chapter 5, §§72-74 (pp. 424-439)
Wednesday	November 13	Chapter 5, §§76-77 (pp. 439-455)
Friday	November 15	Chapter 6, §§78-80 (pp. 454-472)
Monday	November 18	Chapter 6, §§81-83 (pp. 472-488)
Wednesday	November 20	Review of Chapters 5 and 6
Friday	November 22	Overall review and discussion of papers (no written work due)
Monday	November 25	<b>NO CLASS—office hours by appointment</b>
Tuesday	November 26	<b>All course work due by 4:30pm—e-mail only</b>