CONTEMPORARY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY:
BODY, GENDER AND IDENTITY

SPRING 2004

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais
Humphrey House #201
Phone # 337-7076
latiolai@kzoo.edu
Offices Hours:
  1) Mon. 11:00 - 1:30
  2) Tue. 10:30 - 11:30
  3) By Appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


COURSE GOALS:

This course explores one of the most significant contributions of 20th-century, European Continental philosophy: namely, the philosophy of embodiment that arises within a critique of Western Logocentrism (in general) and Cartesian mind-body dualism (in particular). We will read early works by Husserl and Heidegger regarding the so-called "discovery of the lifeworld" or "everydayness" and then examine how French philosophers and psychoanalysts such as Merleau-Ponty, Lacan, Foucault, Kristeva and Irigary developed a "social-constructivist" account of embodiment. The latter part of the course will be devoted to student-selected readings and presentations.

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, fidelity to an academic journal, two midterm examinations and a final paper.
Class Participation

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essays</td>
<td>2 @ 15% = 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail Correspondence &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>4 @ 5% = 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>1 @ 30% = 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLICIES:**

Open, respectful and critical discussion is crucial to this course. E-mail correspondence provides students with lecture materials important for our interpretation and criticism of texts, which prepare them for participation in classroom discussion, and quizzes allow students to evaluate their comprehension of basic terms, positions and arguments. Midterm assignments and the final paper offer students the opportunity to respond in depth to a single topic. The final paper is due on the day scheduled for the final examination. 3 unexcused absences will result in a full point reduction of the course grade, and later papers may be accepted with full point reduction for each day after the deadline.

**SCHEDULE OF READING (TBA)**

**INTRODUCTION**

TUESDAY: WEEK ONE


2. Phenomenology and Hermeneutics of Pre-predicative Experience: Husserl and Heidegger on Embodiment.

**1. HEIDEGGER'S CONCEPT OF BEING-IN-THE-WORLD:**

THURSDAY:

1. Phenomenology and Hermeneutics of Pre-predicative Experience: Husserl and Heidegger on Embodiment.

   A) Edmund Husserl (pp. 11-95).
   B) Heidegger (pp. 95-150).

TUESDAY: WEEK TWO

1. Phenomenology and Hermeneutics of Pre-predicative Experience: Husserl and Heidegger on Embodiment (Cont.)

   A) Edmund Husserl (pp. 11-95).
   B) Heidegger (pp. 95-150).

THURSDAY:
1. Phenomenology and Hermeneutics of Pre-predicative Experience: Husserl and Heidegger on Embodiment (End)
   
   A) Edmund Husserl (pp. 11-95).
   B) Heidegger (pp. 95-150).

2. Quiz #1.

2. MERLEAU-PONTY'S PHENOMENOLOGY OF PERCEPTION:

TUESDAY: WEEK THREE

1. Merleau-Ponty (pp. 150-211)

THURSDAY:

1. Merleau-Ponty (pp. 150-211) [Cont.]
2. Quiz #1.

3. JACQUES LACAN:

TUESDAY: WEEK FOUR

1. Lacan (pp. 211-252).

THURSDAY:

1. Lacan (pp. 211-252) [Cont.]
2. Quiz #3.

4. MICHEL FOUCAULT:

TUESDAY: WEEK FIVE

1. Foucault (pp. 252-315).

THURSDAY:

1. Foucault (pp. 252-315).
2. Quiz #4

5. JULIA KRISTEVA AND LUCE IRIGARAY:

TUESDAY: WEEK SIX
1. Kristeva (pp. 315-353).

THURSDAY:

1. Irigary (pp. 353-374).

2. Quiz #5.

6. THE ABSENT BODY: TALKING HEADS AND SPEECHLESS BODIES:

TUESDAY:  

1. "The Ecstatic Body" (pp. 11-36).

2. "The Recessive Body" (pp. 36-69).

THURSDAY:

1. "The Dys-appearing Body" (pp. 69-103).

2. Quiz # 6.

7. LANGUAGE AS EMBODIMENT?:

TUESDAY:  

THURSDAY:

TUESDAY:  

THURSDAY:

TUESDAY:  

THURSDAY:  

FINALS WEEK