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Description automatically generated**PHI 421 CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY I**

**Fall 2022-2023**

Wed: 10:00 – 13:00 / Çalıştay-1

**Lecturer:** Assst. Prof. Dr. Gülben Salman

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**Office Hours:** By appointment via e-mail (on Thursday after 15:30)

**Course Description and Objectives:** This class aims to introduce the fundamental discussions of philosophy in the first half of the 20th century focusing on the continental tradition and not the analytical tradition. There are several streams of thoughts flourished in the continental philosophy such as phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, structuralism, post-structuralism, deconstruction, French feminism, psychoanalytic theory and the critical theory of the Frankfurt School throughout the first and the second half of the 20th century. This class will focus on the main arguments in the first half of the century and in the spring term, Continental Philosophy II will proceed to discuss the remaining topics. Historically, the continental philosophy is usually thought to begin with phenomenology of Edmund Husserl. It continued with the criticisms towards Husserlian phenomenology by Martin Heidegger leading the direction towards the existentialism (influenced also from Kierkegaard and Nietzsche). Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty are rooted in the existential tradition. Hannah Arendt politically criticizes Martin Heidegger, and she develops a phenomenology of plurality. This class will cover the basic thoughts of these philosophers, respectively.

**Evaluation:** %30 Weekly In-Class Quizzes, %30 Mid-Term Grades, %50 Final Grade

1. **The Weekly In-Class Quizzes:** 15-minute-long quick quizzes in-class at the beginning of each course (10:00-10:15). The students are expected to answer questions indicated below for each week in the beginning of the class. 3 points each. 10 quizzes will be equal to 30 (10 x 3). Open-text. (There are 11 weeks, so you can skip one of the quizzes)
2. **Mid-Term Exam (30 points):** Students are expected to answer 2 questions among 4 questions.(November 23, 2022)
3. **The Final Exam (50 points):** Students are expected to answer 2 questions among 4 questions.(January 18, 2023) (Resit: January 21, 2023)

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| September, 28 | Introduction to the class: What is the difference between the continental and analytical philosophy. |
| October, 5 | The Roots of Husserlian Phenomenology:   1. Brentano’s descriptive psychology and intentionality.   *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint, Routledge*, 1973, pp. xiv-xx (Introduction to the Second Edition)   1. Husserl’s early thoughts on the critique of psychologism and intentionality.   *Logical Investigations, Vol.2*, Routledge, 2001, pp. 79-115  Guidebooks: Dan Zahavi, *Husserl’s Phenomenology*, Stanford University Press, 2003, pp. 7-42;  Richard Kearney, *Continental Philosophy in the Tweentieth Century*, Routledge, 1994, pp. 5-31 |
| The Question of the Week | Define *intentionality* for Husserl. (check the guidebooks…) |
| October, 12 | Husserl’s Turn to Transcendental Philosophy:   1. Presuppositionlessness/Epoché/Reduction:   *The Idea of Phenomenology*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999, pp. 15-21, pp. 33-40   1. Transcendental Idealism   *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy*, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1983, sections 46-56, pp. 103-117  Guidebook: Dan Zahavi, *Husserl’s Phenomenology*, Stanford University Press, 2003, pp. 43-77 |
| The Question of the Week | What is *epoché* for Husserl? (check the guidebook…) |
| October, 19 | The Later Husserl:   1. Time   *On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time (1893-1917)*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1991, sec 1-2, pp. 3-10; sec. 10-14, pp. 29-38   1. Intersubjectivity   *Cartesian Meditations*, 5th Meditation, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1960, pp. 89-120  Guidebook: Dan Zahavi, *Husserl’s Phenomenology*, Stanford University Press, 2003, pp. 79-125 |
| The Question of the Week | Is time punctual for Husserl? (check the guidebook…) |
| October, 26 | Heidegger’s Transformation of Phenomenology, Dasein: From consciousness to existence (ontology).  *Being and Time*, State University of New York Press, 1996.  Sections 5-8, pp. 13-36, Sections 12-13, pp. 49-58, Sections 25-27, pp. 108-120.  Guidebooks: Stephen Mulhall, *Heidegger and Being and Time*, Routledge, 1996, pp. 1-88; Richard Kearney, *Continental Philosophy in the Tweentieth Century*, Routledge, 1994, pp. 38-69 |
| The Question of the Week | Who is *Dasein*? |
| November, 2 | Heidegger’s Anxiety, Care and Time as Human Horizon  *Being and Time*, State University of New York Press, 1996.  Sections 39-42, pp. 126-138; Sections 61-68, pp. 279-320.  Guidebook: Stephen Mulhall, *Heidegger and Being and Time,* Routledge, 1996, pp. 109-112, 137-164 |
| The Question of the Week | What is *anxiety* for Heidegger? |
| November, 9 | Heidegger’s *Kehre* (The Turn) in 1935   1. Technology: “The Question Concerning Technology”, pp. 3-35 2. Art: “The Origin of the Work of Art”, pp.1-23   Guidebook: Timothy Clark, *Martin Heidegger*, Routledge, 2001, pp. 41-69. |
| The Question of the Week | Is Heidegger happy with technological advancement? Discuss. |
| November, 16 | Arendt’s Human Condition  *The Human Condition*, The University of Chicago Press, pp.7-49  Guidebook: Simon Swift, *Hannah Arendt*, Routledge, 2009, pp. 25-71 |
| The Question of the Week | What is *vita active*? |
| November 23, | Mid-Term Exam |
| November, 30 | Sartre: “The Pursuit of Being” and “The Origin of Negation”,  *Being and Nothingness*, Pocket Books, 1978, pp. xlv-lxvii, pp. 3-45  Guidebook: Joseph S. Catalano, *A Commentary on Jean-Paul Sartre’s “Being and Nothingness”*, The University of Chicago Press, 1974, pp. 17-78 |
| The Question of the Week | Define being-in-itself, and being for itself for Sartre. |
| December, 7 | Sartre: “Existentialism is a Humanism”, pp. 17-54  Guidebook: Christine Daigle, *Jean-Paul Sartre*, Routledge, 2009, pp. 86-97 |
| The Question of the Week | Explain how existence preceeds existence… |
| December, 14 | Simone de Beauvoir: “One is not born, but rather becomes a woman”.  *The Second Sex*, Book II, “Childhood”, Lowe and Brydone, 1953, pp. 273-300  Guidebook: Ursula Tidd, *Simone de Beauvoir*, Routledge, 2004, pp. 11-82 |
| The Question of the Week | How one becomes a woman according to Simone de Beauvoir? |
| December, 21 | Merleau-Ponty: “The Sensation as a Unit of Experience”,  *Phenomenology of Perception*, Routledge, 1958, pp. 3-59  Guidebook: George J. Marshall, *A Guide to Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception*, Marquette University Press, 2008, pp. 71-93 |
| The Question of the Week | Can we explain perception by sensation? |
| December, 28 | Merleau-Ponty: “Body”  *Phenomenology of Perception*, Routledge, 1958, pp. 103-169  Guidebook: George J. Marshall, *A Guide to Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception*, Marquette University Press, 2008, pp. 107-184 |
| The Question of the Week | Explain Merleau-Ponty’s idea that “the body is our general medium for having a world. |