

PHL322 H1S
CONTEMPORARY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Friday 9am – 12pm
Sidney Smith Hall 1086

Dr. Sol Goldberg

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Contact Hours: Tuesday 1pm–2pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine how issues related to “other minds” have been taken up in twentieth century continental philosophy. In this tradition, the central problems of “other minds” have as much to do with authenticity as with epistemology, with translation as with perception. If human identity is fundamentally social, how can one ever be an authentic self? If experience is fundamentally first–personal, how can solipsism be avoided? What kind of normativity is possible without knowledge of other minds? Is translation a way to solve the problem of other minds or evidence that the gap between different minds is unbridgeable? In addressing these questions, the course will consider the works of major philosophers in phenomenological and hermeneutical traditions of continental philosophy.

EVALUATION

Participation (10%)

Three Essays (90% – due February 3; March 2; March 30)

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

disability.services@utoronto.ca.

PLAGIARISM

From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

To represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism.

Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on “knowing”, the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Please switch off cell-phones before class; do not talk to your classmates; use laptops only for taking notes. Distraction of other students is unacceptable.

COURSE MATERIAL

All of the texts for the course (as well as recommended secondary readings) will be available on Blackboard.

READING SCHEDULE

01/13 Introduction

01/20 Edmund Husserl, "Fifth Meditation: Uncovering of the Sphere of Transcendental Being As Monadological Intersubjectivity"

01/27 Martin Heidegger, "Exposition of the Task of a Preparatory Analysis of Dasein" & "Being-in-the-world as Being-with and Being-one's-self; The 'They'"

02/03 Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "Other Selves and the Human World"

02/10 Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Existence of Others"

02/17 Emmanuel Levinas, "Is Ontology Fundamental?"; "No Identity"; & "Non-intentional Consciousness"

02/24 NO CLASS

03/02 Alfred Schütz, "Foundations of a Theory of Intersubjective Understanding" & "The Social World and the Theory of Social Action"

03/09 Wilhelm Dilthey, "Lived Experience, Expression, and Understanding"

03/16 Martin Heidegger, "A Dialogue on Language: Between a Japanese and an Inquirer"

03/23 Paul Ricoeur, "The Question of Selfhood" & "What Ontology in View?"

03/30 Jacques Derrida, *Monolingualism of the Other; or, the Prosthesis of Origin*

04/06 Johann Gottlieb Fichte, "Foundations of Natural Right according to the Principles of the Wissenschaftslehre"