

SPRING 2016 PROSEMINAR

HEIDEGGER'S *BEING AND TIME*

“When I left the auditorium, I was speechless. For a brief moment I felt as if I had a glimpse into the ground and foundation of the world. In my inner being, something was touched that had been asleep for a long time.”

That is how one person described the experience of listening to Heidegger present his philosophy in 1929. Our advanced seminar will be an intensive and focused study of Heidegger's *Being and Time*, one of the most influential philosophical works of the twentieth century. We will begin the course with an overview of Edmund Husserl's phenomenological method, and then trace how Heidegger adopts and adapts this new way of doing philosophy in order to address the problems of existence. Second, we will work our way through *Being and Time* systematically, mastering Heidegger's arguments and considering their implications for traditional philosophical problems in epistemology and ontology. Finally, we will look at the “turn” in Heidegger's later thought, and consider the importance of his philosophy for understanding language, art, and poetry, as well as his profound critique of modernity, which has influenced thinkers as diverse as Sartre, Marcuse, Derrida, Foucault, Lacan, Cavell, Taylor, Agamben, and Žižek.

As Richard Rorty once said, “You cannot read most of the important philosophers of recent times without taking Heidegger's thought into account.” This course is designed for students who want to know why.

Wednesdays

3:30-6:00

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