

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2017-2018**

Philosophy 3555G: Continental Philosophy

Winter Term 2018 Tuesday 4:30-5:30 Thursday 3:30-5:30 Classroom: AHB-1B02	Instructor: Prof. Helen Fielding Office: Lawson Hall 3237 661-2111 x84548 Email: hfieldin@uwo.ca
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DESCRIPTION

We will read works that provide some insight into our contemporary technological world. What humans can achieve and create has reached extraordinary levels, and yet our ability to figure out what is right to do about these achievements lags behind. In this course we will consider how the world becomes meaningful for us, including how ideologies operate, what it means to be embodied in this technological age, and what it means to act. We will read from Hannah Arendt's prescient *The Human Condition*, Martin Heidegger's important work on questioning technology and from Maurice Merleau-Ponty on embodied perception. The emphasis in this course will be on understanding some of the key questions at stake for continental philosophy such as the relation between truth and appearance, perception and meaning, and what it means to inhabit the earth in this age of technology

TEXTS

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*, University of Chicago Press, 1958.
Other readings will be provided

OBJECTIVES

This course will enable students to:

- gain familiarity with issues that are important within the continental tradition
- formulate meaningful questions
- read texts closely
- analyze some ways of thinking that shape contemporary global events.
- understand the ways in which we are shaped by forces that exceed individuals but belong to the thinking of our age, even as this understanding does not absolve us of responsibility or deprive us of agency.

REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation

First Essay	20%	(6 pages, due Feb.15th)
Second Essay	35%	(8 pages, due April 10)
Participation	15%	
Final Exam	30%	

Participation Grade: each week students will be assigned to post a discussion question on the forum on the Wednesday before the Thursday class. Each student will post 2 questions over the semester. The questions will be discussed in the Thursday class. A short synopsis of the discussion will be posted to the forum within the following week (100-200 words). Each question is worth 5%. Another 5% is reserved for participation in the group discussions.

Submission Guidelines:

- In conformity with departmental policy, all written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.
- Late papers will be penalized 2 percentage points per day late.

Prerequisite(s): Third or Fourth year standing in the Honors Specialization, Honors Double Major, or Specialization module in Philosophy or permission of the Department.

Audit

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The grade for any missed assignments worth less than 10% will be added to the final exam. I.e. the final exam will be worth more of the final grade.

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE