

# Phenomenology

PHI 442/542

Spring 2009, Catalog #8746/#8751

Earth Sciences 144, MWF 1:40-2:35

Course page: <http://phi542.profron.net>

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## Readings:

**E-Reserves:** Readings other than those from the required books will be available on the course e-reserves page as PDF files. The e-reserves password will be given out in class.

**Books** (from *Mary Jane Books*):

**Required:** *The Transcendence of the Ego*, Jean-Paul Sartre; *Phenomenology of Perception*, Maurice Merleau-Ponty

**Optional:** *The Idea of Phenomenology, Ideas, Cartesian Meditations*, and *Crisis of European Science*, Edmund Husserl; *Being and Nothingness, The Emotions: Outline of a Theory*, Jean-Paul Sartre; *Being and Time* and *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*, Martin Heidegger

## Requirements:

**Papers:** Topics for short (about 1500 words) papers will be handed out four times during the semester, and will be due about a week after being assigned. You must do two of these, including at least one of the first two. (See the *Addenda* page for the rules on late papers.) For PHI 442, each short paper is worth 20% of the final course grade. In PHI 542, students will rewrite one of their two short papers into a longer (about 3000-4000 words) paper; for them, the two short papers are each worth 15% of the course grade, and the longer paper is worth 20%.

**Exams:** There will be three 55-minute in class closed-book tests, spaced relatively equally throughout the semester. Tests are mostly short-answer format, and will be non-comprehensive. (See the *Addenda* page for the rules on makeup exams.) In PHI 442, a student's two best exam scores are each worth 20% of the final course grade; in PHI 542, the two best exam scores are each worth 15% of the final course grade.

**Participation, etc.:** Class and online participation and other stuff will total 20% of your course grade. This will include the following, and perhaps more: Every few classes, I will hold a "Chat Day", in which we devote a class to a question-and-answer and discussion period; you'll be expected to come prepared and to participate. There will also be a class discussion board, and I will ask you to post a "Thought of the Week" to the discussion board before each chat day; topics for each ToW will be given out in class. Note that if you don't attend class, that's clearly non-participation, and will be graded accordingly.

**Summary:** Grades for students in 442 will be 20% for each of two short papers, 20% for each of their two best exam grades, and 20% for class/online participation/etc. Grades for students in PHI 542 will be 15% for each of two short papers, 20% for the longer paper, 15% for each of their two best exam grades, and 20% for class/online participation.

**Course outline:** (Tentative; expect changes)

## Part I: Pure Phenomenology

### Foundations/beginnings

- Kockelmans, "What is Phenomenology?"
- Husserl, *The Idea of Phenomenology*

### Phenomenological reduction

- Husserl, from *Ideas*, chs. 3-7
- Husserl, from *Cartesian Meditations*, First and Second Meditations

### Intentionality and reflection

- Husserl, from *Ideas*, chs. 8-11
- Solomon, "Husserl's Concept of the Noema"

### Horizon and life-world

- Husserl, from *Cartesian Meditations*, Fifth Meditation
- Husserl, from *Crisis of European Science*, Part III-A

## Part II: The Existential Turn

### Existence and essence

- Sartre, *The Transcendence of the Ego*
- Sartre, Intro to *Being and Nothingness*
- Heidegger, Introduction to *Basic Problems of Phenomenology*
- Heidegger, from *Being and Time*
- Merleau-Ponty, Preface to *Phenomenology of Perception*

### Between the for-itself and the in-itself

- Sartre, from *Being and Nothingness*
- Merleau-Ponty, from *Phenomenology of Perception*, Parts I and III

### Phenomenology and the Sciences of Mind

- Husserl, from *Crisis of European Science*, Part III-B
- Sartre, from *Outline of a Theory of the Emotions*
- Merleau-Ponty, "Phenomenology & the sciences of man"
- McClamrock, from *Existential Cognition*

# Phenomenology Syllabus Addenda (PHI 442/542 – Spring 2009 – McClamrock)

## Paper Submission Rules:

- All papers must be submitted electronically, transmitted as documents attached to a piece of e-mail addressed to me at [ron@albany.edu](mailto:ron@albany.edu).
- Electronic documents sent to me should be saved in the format known as **RTF** ("Rich Text Format"). Almost all word processors will save and load RTF. Please, no *Microsoft Word* "docx" documents, or any other such proprietary format. Note that to save as RTF, you can't just change the file extension to "RTF"; you need to use "Save As" under your "File" menu and select "Rich Text Format" as the file type.
- Name the file you send to me as "Lastname\_Firstname\_442A1Q1.rtf", substituting your name in for "Lastname\_Firstname", and the appropriate assignment and question numbers in place of "A1" and "Q1" (and "542" for "442" if you're in the graduate section of the course). So, for example: Assignment #2 written on Question 3 from undergraduate student Eric Cartman should be named "Cartman\_Eric\_442A2Q3.rtf".
- Please format papers simply, single-spaced, with your name, the assignment and question number, and any title you might give to the paper at the top of the first page (don't use a separate title page). I'd prefer that the text font be 12pt Times-Roman or Helvetica and that the left margin be 1" and the right margin 2.5". Please also include page numbers and a word count.. You can get a sample formatted this way that will give you a template or model from the web page.
- When you send papers to me, please cc: yourself to make sure everything worked OK.

## Missed Exams:

Makeup exams are given only when extreme circumstances make it *impossible* for you to take the test when given; e.g., when you are hospitalized on that day. In these extreme circumstances, in order to be given a makeup exam, you must do all of the following.

1. If you are an undergraduate, you must obtain a letter of excuse from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies; all inquiries about such letters and the documentation required for them should be directed to the Dean's office (LC-30). This request (with documentation) is to be made to the Dean's office no more than two weekdays after the end of the period for which you are asking to be excused. (Graduate student should come to me directly concerning documentation.)
2. Give me a written (e-mail is best, paper is OK) request for a makeup exam. This request should be given to me no more than two weekdays after the end of the period for which your absence has been excused.
3. Talk to me in person at the end of the first class after your excused absence in order to schedule a makeup.

You must do all of these in order to be given a makeup. But even if you do, I reserve the right to judge that the excuse is inadequate, in which case I may decline to give the makeup.

## Late papers:

Late papers are marked down by one grade notch (e.g. B to B- or B- to C+) for every hour or portion thereof I receive them after the due date and time. The only exception is the one noted under "Missed exams": If there are such extreme circumstances, and a paper is due during an excused absence, you may get an extension until the first day not covered by the excused absence. In such a case, the paper is due on that day, at the same time of day it was originally due.

## Grade Calculation Rules:

1. Every graded piece of work (exam, paper, whatever) is given a letter grade. These letter grades range from A+ (the best) to F (the worst).
2. Each of these letter grades has a numerical equivalent, as indicated in this chart:

A+ = 15	B = 11	C- = 7	E+ = 3
A = 14	B- = 10	D+ = 6	E = 2
A- = 13	C+ = 9	D = 5	E- = 1
B+ = 12	C = 8	D- = 4	F = 0

"Slash" grades like "A-/B+" are equivalent to the midpoint between the two grades; e.g., a grade of A-/B+ is calculated as a 12.5.

3. In calculating your final grade, all that matters is (the numerical equivalents of) your various letter grades for the various graded pieces of work.
4. I use the numerical equivalents of the letter grades to calculate a composite numerical grade using whatever procedure I've specified for the particular class.
5. I round the composite numerical grade to the nearest integer (.5 and above go up, below go down).
6. I convert back to letter grades using the chart above. You get the letter grade determined by the chart, except if (i) you got an A+, in which case your official grade is an A (the University doesn't use A+), or (ii) you got lower than a D-, in which case your official grade is E. Note that for graduate students, the only passing grades are B and above.

## On getting a grade of "I" (Incomplete):

Students in PHI 442 can get an "I" (Incomplete) only if you have an excused absence of the sort described under "Missed Exams" prevents you from either taking the last of the exams or turning in the last of the papers. Students in 542 who've finished everything but the long paper can get an "I". For both 442 and 542, to get an "I" you must explicitly ask for one – preferably by e-mail. All incompletes must be made up within 2 weeks of the original deadline for final papers.

## Cheating:

Students judges to be cheating, whether by plagiarizing or in others ways, will be failed for the course and turned in to the UA for further action.