SYLLABUS*
Philosophy 152: Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy
Fall Term 2008
MWF 10:10 – 11:00 AM
HMNSS 1503

Instructor: Professor Mark Wrathall
Office: HMNSS 3215
Phone: (951) 827-1519
E-mail: mark.wrathall@ucr.edu
Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:30-4:30 pm, and by appointment
Web Page: faculty.ucr.edu/~markwr

“Continental Philosophy” is a convenient if ill-defined label for philosophical movements originating in continental Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. We will concentrate this term on three of the central figures in 20th century continental philosophy – Heidegger, Foucault, and Derrida. The main focus of the course will be their accounts of language, and the role played by their views of language in the development of their thought.

Required Texts:

Martin Heidegger, On the Way to Language (HarperOne 1982)

Michel Foucault, The Archeology of Knowledge (Pantheon 1982)

Jacques Derrida, Margins of Philosophy trans. Alan Bass (University of Chicago 1985)

Course Requirements
1) **Readings.** For the required readings, see the syllabus below. Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class.

2) **Two Midterms and Final.** The exams will each be worth 20% of your final grade. All exams must be taken during the scheduled times. If illness or other uncontrollable circumstances prevent a student from taking the exam at the scheduled time and place, that student must notify the instructor as soon as possible – in advance, if possible – to schedule a make-up. Students should be ready to document any circumstances which prevent the taking of exams. Under no circumstances may any of the exams be taken early. If you miss one of the midterms or the final exam, you will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.

3) **A 5-7 Page Term Paper.** I will distribute suggested paper topics and deadlines later in the term, although I would prefer for you to identify your own paper topic. I will require you to hand in an outline, and meet with me to discuss your paper.

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*This syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class. Students will be held responsible for all changes.*
Your grade on the term paper will constitute 40% of your final grade. Failure to complete the term paper will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Classroom Etiquette**
Students have an obligation to their classmates and instructor to behave in such a manner as to enhance the learning environment. Please do not engage in behavior which disrupts class or otherwise detracts from the ability of your fellow students to learn. Such behaviors include arriving at class late, leaving before class is dismissed, speaking or whispering while others are speaking, reading newspapers in class, cell-phones ringing, snoring, etc.

**Biographical Information**
Wrathall received a B.A. in philosophy from Brigham Young University, an A.M. in philosophy from Boston College, a J.D. from Harvard University, and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley. Before coming to UCR, he taught for 11 years at Brigham Young University. He has published extensively on figures and topics in continental philosophy. He has recently completed *Heidegger on Truth, Language, and History* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2009). He is also editing *The Cambridge Companion to Heidegger’s Being and Time*. Wrathall is married and is the father of four children.
**SCHEDULE**

**September**
- F26  No class – review syllabus
- M29  Heidegger, “Language” (from *Poetry, Language, Thought*; copy will be provided).

**October**
- F3   Heidegger, “The Nature of Language,” continued
- M6   Heidegger, “The Nature of Language,” continued
- F10  Heidegger, “The Way to Language,” continued
- W15  Heidegger, “Words,” continued
- F17  **In-class Midterm Exam**
- M20  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 21-49
- W22  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 50-76
- F24  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 79-105
- M27  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 106-131
- W29  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 135-156
- F31  Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 157-177

**November**
- M3   Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 178-195
- W5   Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 199-211
- F7   Foucault, *The Archeology of Knowledge* pp. 215-237
- M10  **In-class Midterm exam**
- W12  No Class – makeup will be scheduled
- F14  No Class – makeup will be scheduled
- M17  Derrida, “Différance”
- W19  Derrida, “Différance” continued
- F21  Derrida, “The Ends of Man”
- M24  Derrida, “The Ends of Man” continued
- W26  Derrida, “The Supplement of Copula”
- F28  **THANKSGIVING**

**December**
- M1   Derrida, “The Supplement of Copula” continued
- W3   Derrida, “Signature Event Context”
- F5   Derrida, “Signature Event Context” continued
- W10  **FINAL EXAM, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**