

PHENOMENOLOGY

PHIL 4380.001 Phenomenology, cross-listed with

PHIL 5392.001 Topics in the History of Philosophy: Consciousness and Neurophenomenology

PSYC 4359.001 Selected Topics in Psychology: Consciousness and Neurophenomenology

Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Kenneth Williford

Meeting Time: M & W 4:00-5:20

Meeting Place: Life Sciences (LS) 424

Office and Office Hours: 305 Carlisle Hall
M&W 2:00-3:30PM & by appointment

Faculty Profile

<https://www.uta.edu/profiles/kenneth-williford>

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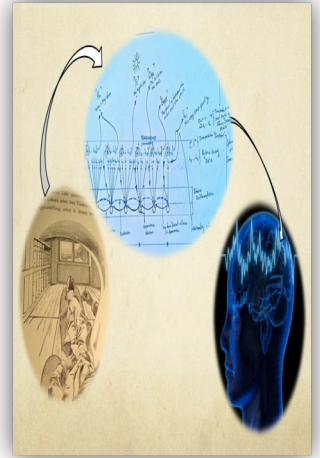
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Description: This course is a high-level introduction to Phenomenology, a major 20th-century philosophical tradition spearheaded by Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) with roots in 19th-century descriptive and introspective psychology (represented by, among others, Franz Brentano (1838-1917) and William James (1842-1910)) and branches extending into many fields, including the foundations of mathematics, the theory of perception, metaphysics and epistemology, the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of language, and the psychological and neuroscientific study of consciousness. This course will combine historical and thematic approaches. We will read both classical and contemporary texts in the field and cover most of the major topics phenomenologists have been preoccupied with (see below). The course should interest philosophy, psychology, and neuroscience students as well as students concerned with the history of methodological controversies in the natural and social sciences and in literary theory.

Figures: Franz Brentano, Ernst Mach, Wilhelm Wundt, William James, Sigmund Freud, Edmund Husserl, Edith Stein, Martin Heidegger, Hannah Arendt, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Aron Gurwitsch, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Jaques Derrida, Dan Zahavi, Gerald Edelman, Giulio Tononi, Francisco Varela, Antonio Damasio, Daniel Dennett, Paul and Patricia Churchland, John Searle, Hubert Dreyfus, David Chalmers, Douglas Hofstadter

Topics: Platonic, Aristotelian, Cartesian, Humean, and Kantian Legacies in Philosophy, History of Psychology in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Positivism, Introspectionism vs. Behaviorism vs. Cognitivism, "First-Person" Methodologies, the Mind-Body Problem, Psychophysics, Psychoanalysis, Psychodynamics and the Unconscious, Perception, Conceptual Thought, Logical and Mathematical Cognition, Imagination, Emotion, Time-Consciousness, Spatial Cognition, Bodily Awareness, Intentionality and Representation, Self-Consciousness, the Self, Subjectivity, Objectivity, Intersubjectivity, and Contemporary Neuroscientific Theories of Consciousness, Transcendental Philosophy vs. Dogmatic Metaphysics vs. Naturalism, Existentialism, Structuralism, Deconstruction

Prerequisites: No formal prerequisites, but a willingness to read difficult texts and think hard will help!

Student “Learning Outcomes”

Students who attend all classes and study properly will: (1) understand and be able to articulate the main views of Phenomenological philosophers; (2) have a broad understanding and be able to discuss coherently the history of Phenomenology and its influence in historical and contemporary work in various areas of philosophy, psychology, and the neuroscientific study of consciousness; (3) understand and be able to communicate clearly the main arguments for and against the theses of Phenomenological philosophers; (4) demonstrate competency in oral and written communication; and (5) work effectively in an open dialogical environment.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials

The following texts are all available at the UTA Bookstore.

- (1) *The Phenomenological Mind*, 2nd ed. by Shaun Gallagher and Dan Zahavi
- (2) *The Essential Husserl* edited by Donn Welton
- (3) *The Emotions: Sketch of a Theory* by Jean-Paul Sartre (either translation)
- (4) *The Imaginary* by Jean-Paul Sartre (Webber translation)
- (5) *The Transcendence of the Ego* by Jean-Paul Sartre (either translation)
- (6) *The Phenomenology of Perception* by Maurice Merleau-Ponty (Landes translation)

The instructor will provide all other required reading material for this course. The material will be posted on Blackboard; consult the Schedule below.

Evaluation

- (1) Attendance, participation, and quizzes (20%)
- (2) Take-home midterm exam (20%)
- (3) Final exam (20%)
- (4) 10-15 page argumentative research paper (40%)

Attendance and Participation

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take attendance everyday. A student may have up to three unexcused absences without this affecting his or her grade adversely. Participation will be noted.

Quizzes

There will be frequent but small quizzes over the reading material. There will be a quiz almost every week. **Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard and should be turned in on Blackboard as well.** At the end of the semester the cumulative quiz average will be combined with attendance and participation grades to yield 20% of the final grade.

Take-Home Midterm Exam

Around midterm, there will be a take-home examination consisting of two essay questions and some short-answer questions. Answers will need to be typed, double-spaced, and in a 12-point font with reasonable

margins. In order to answer the questions adequately, the student will need to be familiar with the reading and lecture material. It will count for 20% of the final grade. More information concerning expectations and evaluation criteria will be provided later. **The exam is to be turned in through Blackboard.**

Final Exam

There will be an in-class final exam on the scheduled final exam day and time (**Wednesday, May 11 from 2:00-4:30PM in 424 Life Sciences**), so do plan accordingly. The final will contain several short answer questions and one or two essay questions. The final will be cumulative and will count for 20% of your grade. More details about the final will be given at the appropriate time.

Argumentative Research Papers

Each student will write a 10-15-page argumentative research paper. The paper will count for 40% of your final grade. The first half of the paper, a tentative outline of the entire paper, an abstract, and a tentative bibliography will be due near midterm. The final version will be due at the end of exam week. Part of the grade will depend on how well feedback on the first half of the paper was used for the final version. More details about my expectations for the papers will be given in class. **It is important that you begin thinking about a paper topic now. I will be expecting paper topic proposals by the fourth week of class. You might start by looking through the books and studying the topics mentioned in the reading schedule. You should also talk to me as soon as possible about possible topics.**

IMPORTANT POLICIES OF MINE

Late Work: All unexcused late work will be docked a full letter grade for every day that it is late.

Laptops and Phones: In my class I do not allow students to use laptops, smartphones, or other electronic devices without special permission. One exception to this policy is the taking of photos of the blackboard if there are important notes, diagrams, or outlines written on it during class. Any note taking must be done the old fashioned way. However, since recordings of all lectures and any Power Point slides used will be posted on Blackboard, students are discouraged from taking too many handwritten notes while in class. There is neuroscientific evidence that attempting to write while listening actually impedes understanding. Students are encouraged to listen and ask questions and write sparingly.

Homework for Other Courses: Students are not allowed to read for or do homework for other courses while in my class.

Incompletes: I will not give a student a grade of Incomplete (I), unless he or she has a compelling, and documented, reason (e.g., a medical emergency).

Plagiarism: No student should have any doubt about what counts as plagiarism. I will assume that every student in this class has seen this tutorial provided by the UTA library and have taken the quiz embedded in it: <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/index.php>. All cases of plagiarism will be turned over to the Office of Student Conduct.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & OTHER USEFUL PIECES OF INFORMATION

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared

students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and

information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In Quick Hits sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information.

Library Info:

Library Home Page	http://www.uta.edu/library
Subject Guides	http://libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php
Library Tutorials	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php
Connect Off- Campus	http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask A Librarian	http://ask.uta.edu

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Tentative Schedule & Important Dates

This schedule may be subject to some adjustments as the semester progresses. These will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

IM=*The Imaginary*

TE=*Transcendence of the Ego*

EH=*The Essential Husserl*

STE=*Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions*

PP=*Phenomenology of Perception*

PM=*The Phenomenological Mind*

All other readings will be posted on Blackboard. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are supplementary.

Week 1

W1/20 Introduction I—What is Phenomenology?

PM Ch. 1

*"Introduction" to Herbert Spiegelberg's *The Phenomenological Movement*

Origins of the term, 'phenomenology', history of the movement, relevant philosophical, historical and disciplinary backgrounds

Week 2

M1/25 Introduction II—Phenomenological Methods and "Introspectionism" in Psychology

PM Ch. 2

*"Introspectionism' and the Mythical Origins of Scientific Psychology" by Alan Costall

*Bk. I, Chs. 1-2 and Bk. II, Ch.1 of Franz Brentano's *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint* (1874)

*Chs. 1&7 of William James' *The Principles of Psychology* (1890)

Phenomenology and Psychology, Brentano, Freud, Meinong, Stumpf, James, Behaviorism, Gestalt Psychology, Evolutionary Psychology, the "Cognitive Revolution", Naturalism vs. Transcendentalism, Naturalizing Phenomenology, Phenomenology and Mathematical Models

W1/27 Consciousness and Self-Consciousness

PM Ch. 3

"Self-Consciousness" by K. Williford, D. Rudrauf, and C. Philippi

*Bk. II, Ch. 2-3 of Franz Brentano's *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint* (1874)

*Investigation V, Chs. 1-3 of Husserl's *Logical Investigations* (1900)

*Ch.10 of William James' *The Principles of Psychology* (1890)

*"Preserved Self-Awareness following Extensive Bilateral Brain Damage to the Insula, Anterior Cingulate, and Medial Prefrontal Cortices" by C. Philippi, D. Rudrauf, A. Damasio, D. Tranel, K. Williford, *et al.*

Senses of the word, 'consciousness', working definitions of consciousness, senses of the word, 'self', types of self-consciousness, reflective and pre-reflective self-consciousness, descriptions of consciousness vs. theories of consciousness, the mind-body problem

Week 3

M2/1 Husserl against Psychologism and Historicism
EH Ch. I, “Antitheses”

Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, Husserl, Frege, and the battle against “psychologism”; Husserl against relativism, skepticism, and historicism

W2/3 Husserl on Meaning

EH Ch. II, “Phenomenological Clues”

*Chs. 1-2 of “Preliminary Part” of Heidegger’s *History of the Concept of Time* (1925/1979)

Ideality of meaning, act, object, content, proposition, attitude, reference, fulfillment, matter and quality

Week 4

M2/8 Husserl’s Phenomenology as Transcendental Philosophy I

EH Ch. III, “Phenomenology as Transcendental Philosophy”, pp. 60-65

The Transcendental tradition, from psychologism and naturalism to transcendental philosophy, the phenomenological reduction, eidetic analysis, the *epochē*, Cartesianism

W2/10 Husserl’s Phenomenology as Transcendental Philosophy II

EH Ch. III, “Phenomenology as Transcendental Philosophy”, pp. 66-85

EH Ch. X, “Transcendental Phenomenology and the Way through the Science of Phenomenological Psychology”

Husserl, Kant, and the problem of idealism, idealism vs. realism, Platonic realism and intuitionism in Philosophy of Mathematics

Paper topic proposals should be turned in to me this week.

Week 5

M2/15 Intentionality I

PM Ch. 6

*Bk. II, Ch.1 of Franz Brentano’s *Psychology from an Empirical Standpoint* (1874)

Brentano’s Thesis, Ancients and Medievals vs. Early Moderns, Twardowski, Meinong, Husserl, Freud, Heidegger and Sartre—to contemporary theories of representation, Fodor, Dennett, Searle, Millikan, Dretske, Brandom

W2/17 Intentionality II—Husserl

EH Ch. IV, “The Structure of Intentionality”

*“Husserl’s Notion of Noema” by Dagfinn Føllesdal (1969)

*“The Perceptual Noema: Gurwitsch’s Crucial Contribution” by Hubert Dreyfus (1972)

The Development of Husserl’s theory, Internalism, Externalism, Idealism and its Inversion; How to interpret the Noema Doctrine?

The take-home midterm will be assigned this week.

Week 6**M2/22** Husserl on Evidence and Intuition

EH Ch. V, "The Question of Evidence"

Types of evidence, confirmation, disconfirmation, "Back to the things themselves!", types of intuition: mathematical, perceptual, cognitive, introspective, moral

W2/24 Time-Consciousness I

PM Ch. 4

*Ch. 9 of William James' *The Principles of Psychology* (1890)

Physics vs. Philosophy vs. Psychology vs. Phenomenology of Time

Week 7**M2/29** Time-Consciousness II

EH Ch. VII, "Transcendental Aesthetics", pp. 186-212

"A Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time"

Husserl's study of time-consciousness: retention, protention, primal impression

W3/2 Time-Consciousness III

EH Ch. VII, "Transcendental Aesthetics", pp. 213-221

"A Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time"

PP Part 3, §II, "Temporality"

Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty on Temporality and Ecstatic Temporality

Week 8**M3/7** Husserl's Ego

EH Ch. IX, "Static and Genetic Phenomenology", pp. 307-316:

"Time and the Self-Constitution of the Ego"

*Section II, Ch. 1-2 of Husserl's *Ideas II* (posthumously published in 1952)

The development of Husserl's Ego—From the *Logical Investigations* to *Ideas I & II*

W3/9 Sartre's *Transcendence of the Ego* I

TE §I, "The I and the ME"

*"Pre-Reflective Self-Consciousness and the Autobiographical Ego" by K. Williford

Sartre's Critique—Arguments against the Husserlian Ego

The take-home midterm will be due this week.

March 14-19 Spring Vacation**Week 9****M3/21** Sartre's *Transcendence of the Ego* II

TE §II, "The Constitution of the Ego" & "Conclusion"

PM Ch. 10

PP Part 3, §I, "The *Cogito*"

Senses of the Self, Ego, Person, etc. Who is right? Sartre or Husserl? Or Merleau-Ponty?

W3/23 Sartre's *Emotions* I

STE "Introduction" and §I, "The Classic Theories"

* Chs. 25 of William James' *The Principles of Psychology* (1890)

James-Lange Theory, Cannon-Bard Theory, Damasio and others, What are emotions?

Week 10**M3/28 Sartre's *Emotions* II**

STE §§II-III, "The Psychoanalytic Theory" and "Outline of a Phenomenological Theory"

The Unconscious, Gestalt Psychology, Sartre's "Degradation" view

W3/30 Sartre's *Imagination* and *Imaginary* I*The Imagination* Ch. 6, "Husserl"

IM Part I, Ch. 1, "Description"

Do images yield filled intentions? Sartre's critique of Husserl

The first half of your paper, abstract, tentative outline and tentative bibliography will be due this week.**Friday, April 1 Last Day to Drop Classes (by 4:00 PM)****Week 11****M4/4 Sartre's *Imaginary* II**

IM Part I, Ch. 2, "The Image Family"

The data of imaginative consciousness, the "analogon"

W4/6 Sartre's *Imaginary* III

IM Part II, §§I-III

Hypotheses about the nature of mental images

Week 12**M4/11 Sartre's *Imaginary* IV**

IM Part III, §§III-IV, Part IV, §§III-IV, Conclusion §I

The functions and relations of imaginative consciousness, hallucination

W4/13 Perception I

PM Ch. 5, "Perception"

EH Ch. VII, "Transcendental Aesthetics", pp. 221-233

"Horizons and Genesis of Perception"

Philosophy and Phenomenology of Perception

Feedback and a grade on the first half of your paper (and abstract, outline, and tentative bibliography will be returned to you this week.

Week 13

M4/18 Perception II—Merleau-Ponty
 PP “Introduction”, §§I-II

Empiricism, Intellectualism, and Merleau-Ponty

W4/20 Perception III—Merleau-Ponty
 PP “Introduction”, §§III-IV

What is Merleau-Ponty saying?

Week 14

M4/25 Embodiment I
 PM Ch. 7, “The Embodied Mind”
 EH Ch. VII, “Transcendental Aesthetics”, pp. 163-185

Body Orientation, Senses, the Skin, Out-of-Body Experiences, etc., virtuality and perceptual realism

W4/27 Embodiment II
 PP Part 1, “The Body” §§I-II

The body as experienced and as an object of science

Week 15

M5/2 Embodiment III
 PP Part 1, §§III-IV
 **“Bayesian Inference and Projective Geometry in Perception, Imagination, Action, and Self-Consciousness”* by David Rudrauf, Daniel Bennequin, Karl Friston, Kenneth Williford *et al.*

The Spatiality of the Body, projective geometry

W5/4 Neurophenomenology
 “Neurophenomenology: A Methodological Remedy for the Hard Problem” by Francisco Varela
 “Phenomenology” from *A Universe of Consciousness* by Gerald Edelman and Giulio Tononi
 **“From the Phenomenology to the Mechanisms of Consciousness: Integrated Information Theory 3.0”*
 by Masafumi Oizumi, Larissa Albantakis, and Giulio Tononi

Phenomenology in the contemporary neuroscientific study of consciousness

Sometime between Thursday, May 5 and Tuesday, May 10, we will have a review session.

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 11 from 2:00-4:30PM in 424 Life Sciences