

PHGA 7235 HUSSERL'S IDEAS II

FALL 2008

TUESDAYS, 2:00–4:00 PM

PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE ROOM

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays 10–12; Thursdays 2–4

And By Appointment

Introduction

This course is a detailed reading of the second volume of Husserl's three-volume *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy*, a volume that is subtitled "Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution." The notion of "constitution" is in Husserl a problematic one, but it is central to any understanding of phenomenology. Unlike the first volume of *Ideas* (subtitled "General Introduction to Pure Phenomenology"), which is focused on questions of method and the phenomenological program, which is general in character, and which is written in a very dense style, the second volume is concerned to "apply" the phenomenological method and, hence, is very descriptive, focused on particular problems, and not at all dense in style (okay, that last bit's a lie!). More seriously, in many ways this work is a wonderful introduction to Husserl's philosophy, because it is one of the places where he is less programmatic in his discussion and does more of the actual work of phenomenology. The book encompasses Husserl's treatment of some of the most fundamental problems not only in phenomenology but in philosophy as a whole.

The work is organized most broadly around the themes of "nature" and "spirit" (*Geist*=mind or spirit). Hence, over the course of the semester, we shall examine Husserl's understanding of the following (interrelated) issues:

1. Husserl's notion of "attitude," and his understanding of different attitudes: the natural, the naturalistic, the theoretical, the personalistic, and the philosophical (or phenomenological or transcendental);
2. the idea of the natural, or material, world, including its "original" givenness in experience;
3. the distinction between material and living things;
4. the nature of the living (and lived) body;
5. the relation of mind and body;
6. the "soul" as a psychological concept;
7. the "real" ego, "pure" ego, and "transcendental" ego; and
8. the person.

Text

Edmund Husserl, *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy: Second Book: Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution* (Dordrecht: Springer, 1989). Paper edition. ISBN: 978-0-7923-0713-6. \$34.95.

Schedule

N.B. Graduate classes meet through December 23. Please make note of that date when you are making travel plans!

Week Assignment

- 1 *Ideas II*, §§ 1–11.
- 2 *Ideas II*, §§ 12–17.
- 3 *Ideas II*, § 18.
- 4 *Ideas II*, §§ 19–29 and Supplement II.
- 5 *Ideas II*, §§ 30–34 and Supplement III.
- 6 *Ideas II*, §§ 35–42.
- 7 *Ideas II*, §§ 43–47 and Supplement I.
- 8 *Ideas II*, §§ 48–53 and Supplements IV–V.
- 9 *Ideas II*, §§ 54–56 and Supplements VI–IX.
- 10 *Ideas II*, §§ 57–61 and Supplements X–XI.
- 11 *Ideas II*, §§ 62–64 and Supplements XII–XIV and the Epilogue.
- 12 Presentations
- 13 Presentations
- 14 Presentations
- 15 Wrap-up; **Research papers due.**

Requirements

1. Class participation. I expect students to come to class having read the assignment and having prepared questions, comments, reactions to the text. While I shall lecture at times, I shall also place the burden on you to interpret Husserl's texts. I shall also expect you to carry the burden of discussion after your classmate's presentations. 10% of grade.
2. Class Presentation. All students will prepare a presentation of approximately 30 minutes (i.e., approximately 12 double-spaced pages). You will not, however, actually read it. Instead you will e-mail it to all the members of the class and merely summarize it (for no more than 10 minutes) during class. 15% of grade.
3. Comment. Each student will comment on another student's presentation. This comment should be no more than 10 minutes (about 4 double-spaced pages). 5% of grade.
4. Research paper of 5000 to 7000 words (please include a word count on the first page of the paper). This can be, but need not be, an expansion of your presentation. 70% of grade.