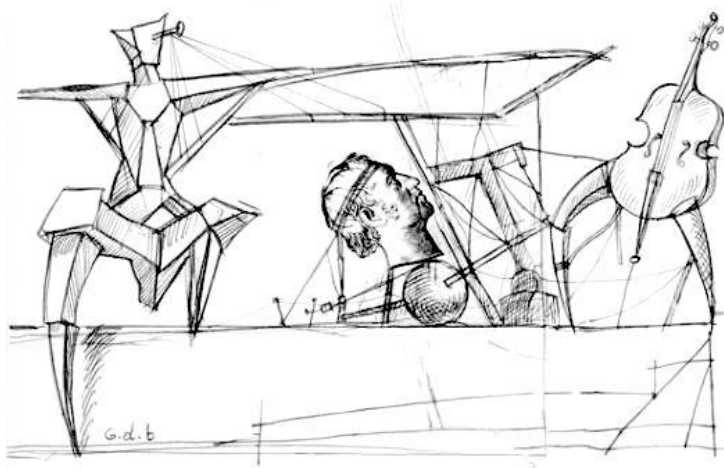


Phenomenology

PHIL 134 / 234
Stanford University – Autumn 2016
TTh 4:30 – 5:50



Instructor

Eli Alshanetsky
Email: elia@stanford.edu
Office Hours: Monday 3 - 5

Description

Phenomenology is at once a distinctive mode of understanding and a tradition in the history of philosophy. As a mode of understanding, it is concerned with uncovering the deepest structures of lived experience. It does not attempt to reduce experience or explain it away in naturalistic terms. Nor does it seek to explain its biological origin, neurological basis, psychological motivation, or the like. Instead, it aims to systematically describe experience, as it appears from the subjective or first person point of view.

As a philosophical tradition, phenomenology has originated in Europe in the first half of the 20th century; it includes the work of Husserl, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Sartre, and other, more recent thinkers. Although we will look at the works of some of these thinkers throughout the course, our primary focus will not be historical. The course will be organized by topic rather than by author. Each week we will discuss a different domain of experience, described by philosophers as well non-philosophers, such as novelists, artists, psychologists, and mathematicians. Our goal will be to explore ways in which such descriptions can complement and inform ongoing work in philosophy as well as in other disciplines.

Texts

Proust, *In Search of Lost Time: Swann's Way* (ISBN: 0375751548)

Sartre, *The Transcendence of the Ego* (ISBN: 0809015455)
Freud, *The Ego and the Id* (ISBN: 0393001423)

Other readings will be made available on Coursework in PDF.

Course Requirements

Two Short (~1-2 pg.) Assignments (P/NP): 10%
Two Longer (~7-8 pg.) Papers: 60%
Participation: 30%

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Introduction.

Proust, *In Search of Lost Time*, Swann's Way

Week 2: Methods, aims, and subject matter of Phenomenology.

Proust, *In Search of Lost Time*, Swann's Way
Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*

Week 3: Memory.

Proust, *In Search of Lost Time*, Swann's Way
Bergson, *Matter and Memory*

Week 4: Time.

Husserl, *Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time* (selections)
Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception*, Temporality

Week 5: Thinking.

James, *The Principles of Psychology*, *The Stream of Thought*
Wundt, *Introduction to Psychology*, Apperception

Midterm Paper Due by Email (by midnight, Friday October 28)

Week 6: The Self.

Zahavi, *Phenomenology of Self*
Sartre, *The Transcendence of the Ego*

Week 7: Psychoanalysis.

Freud, *The Ego and the Id*
Freud, *Remembering, Repeating and Working Through*

Week 8: Freedom.

Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (selections)

Week 9: Aesthetics.

Collingwood, *The Principles of Art*
Modern Artists on Art

Week 10: Creativity.

Poincaré, *The Foundations of Science*, *Mathematical Creativity*
Hadamard, *The Mathematician's Mind*

Final Paper Due by Email (by midnight, Monday December 12th)

Students with Documented Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://oae.stanford.edu>).