

Course Syllabus

Course Information

HUHI 6395.001 Emmanuel Levinas M 10:00 am – 12:45 p.m.
Fall 2011

Professor Contact Information

David Patterson Office: JO 4.800
Email: david.patterson@utdallas.edu Office Hours: T 11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.
Phone: 972-883-2049 and by appointment

Course Description

This course will examine the thinking of one of the major Jewish philosophers of the 20th century, Emmanuel Levinas (1906 – 1995). The focus of the course will be on (1) ways in which Levinas confronted the thinking of Martin Heidegger, (2) what makes his thinking distinctively Jewish, and (3) in what ways his philosophy constitutes a distinctively Jewish philosophical response to the Holocaust. Primary questions raised in the course will include: (1) In what ways is Heideggerian thought consistent with the Nazi program of extermination (Heidegger was an unrepentant Nazi)? (2) Does the accent of Levinas on ethics as first philosophy constitute an adequate response to the Western ontological tradition? (3) Is the response of Levinas adequate to the task? And (4) What makes Levinas a Jewish thinker?

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The ultimate aim of the course is to arrive at a deeper understanding of Levinas's response to the Western speculative tradition, his significance as a post-Holocaust Jewish thinker, and his overall message with regard to the place of ethics in our lives.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Emmanuel Levinas, *Ethics and Infinity*
Emmanuel Levinas, *Time and the Other*
Emmanuel Levinas, *Difficult Freedom*
Emmanuel Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*
Emmanuel Levinas, *Otherwise Than Being or Beyond Essence*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Sept 9: *Ethics and Infinity*

Sept 16: *Time and the Other*, pp. 1-94

Sept 23: *Difficult Freedom*, pp. 3-23; 30-38; 50-58; 142-48; 151-53; 159-66

Sept 30: *Difficult Freedom*, pp. 172-215; 221-25; 228-41

Oct 7: *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 11-40

Oct 14: *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 40-81

Oct 21: *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 82-105; 187-201

Oct 28: *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 201-32 [**proposal due**]

Nov 4: *Totality and Infinity*, pp. 232-47; *Otherwise Than Being*, pp. 3-20

Nov 11: *Otherwise Than Being*, pp. 23-59

Nov 18: *Otherwise Than Being*, pp. 61-97

Dec 2: *Otherwise Than Being*, pp. 99- 140

Dec 9: *Otherwise Than Being*, pp. 140-71 [**paper due**]

Grading Policy

Students will be evaluated on the basis of (1) a proposal for an analytical term paper of at least 4000 words, (2) the analytical paper itself, and (3) class participation. The paper will account for 80% of the grade, the proposal 10%, and class participation 10%.

Course & Instructor Policies

No work will be accepted late except under extenuating circumstances. Students are responsible for all information and all instructions given in class. Students are also responsible for all information sent to their UTD email accounts.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.