

# PH9GT-30 Heidegger

**26/27**

**Department**

Philosophy

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Tobias Keiling

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module provides an introduction to the philosophy of Martin Heidegger (1889-1976), one of the most influential thinkers in 20th century philosophy. His epoch-making 'Being and Time (1927)' is a key text of philosophical existentialism, laying out Heidegger's thinking of human existence, mortality, and authenticity. The module will cover key ideas from 'Being and Time' as well as Heidegger's contributions to a range of philosophical topics: metaphysics, action theory, social ontology, aesthetics, and the philosophy of technology.

### Module aims

The module aims (1) to introduce students to key themes and some lines of development in Heidegger's philosophy; (2) to provide an in-depth introduction to Heidegger's main work, 'Being and Time'; (3) to cover a range of philosophical topics as discussed by Heidegger, including metaphysics, existentialism, action theory, social ontology, aesthetics, and the philosophy of technology; (4) to follow the development of key ideas in Heidegger's philosophy through some of his earlier and later works; (5) to engage students in close reading of primary and secondary texts; (6) to engage students in real-time critical discussion during seminars and discussions; and (7) to engage students to draw their own conclusions about the topics and defend them with reasons and arguments.

# Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

## Week 1 Introduction: Life and Works

A contextual introduction to the personal and intellectual biography of Martin Heidegger, including his temporary support of Nazi politics and what it means for studying his philosophy

## Week 2 Heidegger before 'Being and Time'

Several key ideas of Heidegger's thought emerge very early in his career. We look at his notion of phenomenology as philosophy of "lived experience" and his discovery of time in St. Paul's writing on eschatology.

## Week 3 The Being Question

This week focuses on the metaphysical project of 'Being and Time', sketched in the introduction of the book. We compare Heidegger's approach to other forms of ontological thinking in the history of philosophy, including Aristotle's «I»Metaphysics«/i».

## Week 4 Being-in-the-World I: Intentionality and Action

Heidegger develops novel answers to key problems in the philosophy of mind. This week will focus on his account of action and what it means for how to thinking about the mind.

## Week 5 Being-in-the World II: Heidegger's Social Ontology

'Being and Time' provides a novel social philosophy that is critical of dominant views such as social contract theory. Being an individual person should not be the starting point of theory, but as an achievement.

## Week 6 READING WEEK

## Week 7 Being-in-the World III: Death and Authenticity

How to confront one's mortality is a key question for Heidegger. 'Being and Time' argues that there are two fundamentally different ways of doing this, one "authentic", one "inauthentic".

## Week 8 Hölderlin, or the Promise of Art

This week examines Heidegger's aesthetics, which emphasizes the transformative potential, the "truth" of art.

## Week 9 Dwelling, or the Question of the Human

Heidegger's philosophy changed radically after World War II. This week will discuss his rejection of contemporary "humanist" philosophies such as Sartre's and Heidegger's alternative account of the human being as "dweller".

## Week 10 The Danger of Technology

Heidegger was a radical critic of modern technology, in particular information technology or "cybernetics." We will examine his understanding of technology and discuss the continued relevance of Heidegger's ideas.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- discuss important themes from Heidegger's philosophy and examples of its development, influence, and reception
- acquire further knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Martin Heidegger, derived from engagement with primary and secondary source materials
- independently increase their knowledge and understanding of topics in philosophical fields such as metaphysics, existentialism, philosophy of mind, action theory, aesthetics, and more
- further improve their skills and abilities in close reading and analysis of primary and secondary source texts
- further improve the quality of their academic writing, including skills in organisation and presentation of written work
- further improve their skills and abilities in critical reflecting on their knowledge and understanding
- better develop and defend an argument in support of their conclusions
- independently identify and develop an interesting and relevant question for further study and research
- provide a competent answer to such a question drawing on other relevant skills

## Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

## Subject specific skills

Close textual reading skills.

Advanced reasoning skills.

Fluency in essay writing.

## Transferable skills

Strong presentation skills, verbally and in writing.

Skills in logical and analytical reasoning.

Skills in creative thinking and critical evaluation of ideas and arguments.

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## Study

## Study time

<b>Type</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Optional</b>
Lectures	(0%)	18 sessions of 1 hour
Seminars	8 sessions of 1 hour (3%)	
Private study	292 hours (97%)	
Total	300 hours	

## Private study description

Private study and essay preparation

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group A4

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
<b>Assessment component</b>			
5000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
Students will write a 5000 word essay. The topic and question of the essay will be discussed individually with the module leader.			

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

Students will have their essays returned with written comments. Students can share or discuss a one-page plan for each essay and will receive either verbal or written comments (as preferred).

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## Availability

## **Courses**

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TPHA-V7P2 Postgraduate Taught Continental Philosophy
- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PM Postgraduate Taught Philosophy
- Year 1 of TPHA-V7PN Postgraduate Taught Philosophy and the Arts