

PHIL 5200: Topics in Continental Philosophy

Monday, 3:30 - 6:15pm

Prof. Daniele Lorenzini (he/him)

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Course description:

We use language for a variety of reasons. Describing reality and communicating information are only two of its functions—not necessarily the most important or ubiquitous ones. In fact, through language we also give orders, take up commitments, express feelings, and more generally we actively (re)shape the world that we inhabit.

In this seminar we will explore several aspects of this rich tapestry of non-descriptive uses of language by engaging with authors in both the continental and the “ordinary language” philosophical traditions: Edmund Husserl, Ludwig Wittgenstein, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, J.L. Austin, Frantz Fanon, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Stanley Cavell, Judith Butler, among others.

Readings:

Each week, you are expected to engage with the readings if you are to participate effectively in class discussion and write good papers on your chosen topic. All essential readings will be available on Canvas. Please bring them to class in one form or another.

Assignments:

- Class participation (15%)
- Oral presentation (25%)
- Final paper (15-20 pages) (60%)

Please discuss your chosen paper topic with me in advance of the last few weeks of class; I am happy to give you oral and/or written feedback on a detailed plan before you begin writing your final paper.