EXISTENTIAL, PHENOMENOLOGICAL, AND HERMENEUTIC
APPROACHES TO CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (and literature)

At GSAPP: Listed as: Topics in History and Systems of Psychology; course #: 18-821-633-01.

Note: With one exception, readings will be available at SAKAI. The exception is
Heidegger’s Being and Time. There are two translations of this book. We will use the
Joan Stambaugh translation, published by SUNY Press; it is available in paperback.

Note: Readings in the syllabus are listed in the order in which I suggest you read
them. Some readings are marked as recommended only (rec); others as background only.
The readings that are not marked are required.

Note: Readings listed below are somewhat tentative. I will adjust the required
and recommended readings somewhat during the course of the semester.

Note: we may alter the usual class meeting time once or twice during the
semester; to be discussed in an early class. We may view a film or two together.
See end of syllabus re requirements.

INTRODUCTORY CLASSES

CLASS 1
Introduction to phenomenology, existentialism, hermeneutics, etc.
Discussion of brief passages from several novelists.

CLASS 2
More literary renditions of consciousness:
Joyce, J. (1914-1922). Ulysses, end of Molly Bloom soliloquy
Background for literature students: Cohn, D. (1984), Transparent Minds:
Narrative Modes for Presenting Consciousness in Fiction (Princeton U Press).

Philosophical views on subjectivity:

An introduction to psychiatric phenomenology:
Two excerpts from Sartre:
Sartre (1943). excerpt from Being and Nothingness re “slime.”
Sartre (1938). excerpt from Nausea.

CLASS 3

MARTIN HEIDEGGER

CLASS 4
BT* pp. 30-35 (concept of phenomenology), 49-55 and 59-67 (Being-in-the world, worldliness), 139-144 (understanding and interpretation).
*Please note that the page assignments in BT (Being and Time) may jump around the book a bit; please read in the order suggested in this syllabus.

CLASS 5
Heidegger, BT, pp. 88-94 (aroundness and Dasein’s spatiality), 335-338 (temporality of spatiality) (also pp. 326-335 are recommended [re taking-care vs theoretical discovery]), 118-122 (everyday being one’s self and the They), 126-134 (attunement, fear), 312-317 (fear and Angst).

CLASS 6
Heidegger, BT, pp. 169-183 (primordial totality, Angst as disclosedness, Care and pre-ontological self-interpretation), 186-196 (Dasein, worldliness, and reality), 397-398 (Dasein and meaning of being in general).
CLASS 7
Heidegger, BT pp. 231-240 (death), 312-317 (re fear and Angst, see again). (S)
Hemingway, E. (1926). “A clean, well-lighted place.” (short story; mood of existentialism)
Rec: Hemingway, “The snows of Kilimanjaro.”

CLASS 8

JACQUES LACAN

CLASSES 9, 10, 11 (readings for specific classes TBA)
See Sass notes on Zizek reading.
Additional Lacan or Zizek readings TBA: perhaps from Zizek, Tarrying with the Negative or The Sublime Object of Ideology.
MISCELLANEOUS THEMES (to be selected from the following)

CLASS 12: PHENOMENOLOGY AND SCHIZOPHRENIA
Article on negative symptoms.

CLASS 13: INTERNAL VERSUS EXTERNAL PERSPECTIVES

CLASS 14: MIND AND BRAIN; REDUCTIONISM
Noe, Alva & Thompson, Evan (2004). Are there neural correlates of consciousness? Journal of Consciousness Studies, 11: 3-28. (A recent, phenomenologically oriented argument against reductionism, i.e., against the idea that brain processes can fully account for experience.)
Chalmers, D. article summarizing positions on the mind-body problem.

CLASS 15: NARRATIVE AND POSTMODERNISM
Articles on self, narrative, postmodernism, TBA.

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Attend class; participate in discussion.
2. Do the required reading.
3. Turn in a commentary, just half a page (one page is maximum), two times during the semester. This can be a question, a criticism, an application, or any thought relevant to the readings for the week you are assigned. Also be prepared to be especially active in discussion of the readings for that week.
4. Choose option a or b: term paper or a take-home examination. See below:
a. Paper, approx 10 double-spaced pages, on any topic related to the themes of the course. Topic must be approved by instructor. OR
b. Take-home exam, consisting probably of one or two essay questions. You would have about a week to do this; to be turned in very shortly after final class meeting (May 10 is the tentative due date for paper or take-home exam).
5. Possible assignment (to be discussed): Present a reading to the class, once during semester, using a brief handout (2 pp or so) to be distributed to students. Or, present something related to your paper topic.

*Grade will be based on all the above.*