

## Prejudice and the Human Condition (04-331) Spring 2001

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Office Hrs: Tues. and Thurs. 11:15 - 1pm, Wed. 2-4 pm. C107 #3932

### Course Statement

This is not a course in the sociology of racial or ethnic prejudice - it is a seminar that examines the implications of social and ontological foregrounding for interpretive experience, self understanding and interaction. We will orient our study within the phenomenological tradition and follow the development of Continental hermeneutics through the work of Gadamer. Our goal is to understand the implications of the prejudiced condition of existence for interpersonal interaction and reflexive experience. To a lesser extent, we will also relate our findings to methodological questions within social science.

This course will be conducted as a seminar. I will teach dialogically, facilitating seminar discussions capable of providing clarity and insight regarding the questions at hand. Each Thursday you will be given a work sheet consisting of several questions. You must complete the work sheet and bring it to Tuesday's subsequent meeting. Discussing the worksheets will provide an outline for discussing the week's reading assignments. There will be eleven worksheet assignments. 50% of your final grade will be based on the average of ten of these assignments (your lowest grade will be dropped). There will be a midterm essay exam and a final exam, each worth 20% of your final grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be based on the quality of your seminar participation.

### Required texts

Buber, Martin. 1970 [1937]. The I and Thou.

Dick, Philip K. 1992 [1962].

The Man in the High Castle. New York: Vintage.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg. 1991 [1960].

Truth and Method. New York: Crossroad.

Palmer, Richard E. 1969.

Hermeneutics. Evanston: Northwestern.

Thurs. 1/11 Seminar overview  
**Read for Tues.** Handout on Brockelman.  
**Complete worksheet #1 for Tues.**

Tues. 1/16 Existential phenomenology  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 3-11 in Palmer.

Thurs. 1/18 Hermeneutics and Gadamer's context  
**Read for Tues.** Part I in Dick.  
**Complete worksheet #2 for Tues.**

Tues. 1/23 An oppressive positioning  
**Read for Thurs.** Part II in Dick.

Thurs. 1/25 Interpretive relativity  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 33-45 in Palmer.  
**Complete worksheet #3 for Tues.**

Tues. 1/30 Variations of hermeneutics.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 46-71 in Palmer.

Thurs. 2/1 Gadamer's hermeneutic turn.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 75-97 in Palmer.  
**Complete worksheet #4 for Tues.**

Tues. 2/6 Schleiermacher.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 98-123 in Palmer.

Thurs. 2/8 Dilthey.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 124-139 in Palmer.  
**Complete worksheet #5 for Tues.**

Tues. 2/13 Heidegger's Being and Time.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 140-161 in Palmer.

Thurs. 2/15 Language and the later Heidegger.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 162-193 in Palmer.  
**Complete worksheet #6 for Tues.**

Tues. 2/20 Gadamer's critique.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 194-217 in Palmer.

Thurs. 2/22 Gadamer's hermeneutics.

Tues. 2/27 Review for midterm

Thurs. 3/1 In class midterm essay exam.

Tues. 3/6 **Spring Break**

Thurs. 3/8 **Spring Break**

Tues. 3/13 Buber's project  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 9-50 in Buber.

Thurs. 3/15 Discussion of Kaufmann's introduction.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 53-85 in Buber.  
**Complete worksheet #7 for Tues.**

Tues. 3/20 Discussion of I and Thou.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 87-122 in Buber.

Thurs. 3/22 Discussion of I and Thou.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 123-153 in Buber.  
**Complete worksheet #8 for Tues.**

Tues. 3/27 Discussion of I and Thou.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 153-182 in Buber.

Thurs. 3/29 Discussion of I and Thou.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 101-134 in Gadamer.  
**Complete worksheet #9 for Tues.**

Tues. 4/3 The dialects of play.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 242-264 in Gadamer.

Thurs. 4/5 From subjectivism to phenomenology.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 265-276 in Gadamer.  
**Complete worksheet #10 for Tues.**

Tues. 4/10 The Heideggerian turn in hermeneutics.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 277-340 in Gadamer.

Thurs. 4/12 **Easter Recess**

Tues. 4/17 The prejudiced nature of interpretation.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 341-362 in Gadamer.

Thurs. 4/19 Reflexive experience.  
**Read for Tues.** pp. 362-379 in Gadamer.  
**Complete worksheet #11 for Tues.**

Tues. 4/24 Dialogue and reflexive experience.  
**Read for Thurs.** pp. 381-405 in Gadamer.

Thurs. 4/26 Review for final.