

# Rhodes College Digital Archives - DLynx

## ANSO 311, Prejudice and the Human Condition, Spring 2004

Item Type	Syllabus
Authors	McGowan, Thomas G.
Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
Rights	Rhodes College owns the rights to the archival digital images in this repository. Images are made available for educational use only and may not be used for any non-educational or commercial purpose. Approved educational uses include private research and scholarship, teaching, and student projects. For additional information please contact <a href="mailto:archives@rhodes.edu">archives@rhodes.edu</a> . Fees may apply.
Download date	2025-04-17 22:01:42
Link to Item	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10267/3654">http://hdl.handle.net/10267/3654</a>

**Prejudice and the Human Condition (Anthro/Soc. 331)  
Spring, 2004**

Thomas G. McGowan, Ph. D.                      Office: C107; #843-3932  
Associate Professor of Sociology              Office hrs: M & W 10:30-11:30; T & TR 11:15-Noon

Seminar Statement

This course examines the interpretive dimensions of human existence. We will begin our examination by studying the social epistemology of Emile Durkheim, and continue by extending our analysis into the field of phenomenology and the sociology of knowledge by way of the work of Berger and Luckmann. Our attention will then turn to the phenomenological study of hermeneutics. We will follow Richard Palmer's lead in examining the Continental tradition, paying close attention to the work of Heidegger and, ultimately, Hans-Georg Gadamer. The seminar will culminate with a detailed study of Gadamer's hermeneutics and the exploration of the ontological significance of his work for self positioning.

The format for this seminar will be lecture and discussion. The seminar will focus on the presentation and discussion of weekly essay papers that will be completed prior to seminar meetings. The essays will be written in response to assigned questions and should be 4-5 pages in length. Preparation of the essays will require the careful interpretation of weekly reading assignments, ensuring quality seminar discussions.

Course Requirements/Grading

Mandatory class attendance and participation:	20%
Weekly response essays:	80%

Wednesday	1/14	Course overview and primer on phenomenology
Wednesday	1/21	Durkheim's epistemological project Discuss pp. 1 – 241 in Durkheim
Wednesday	1/28	Social epistemology Discuss pp. 242 - 448 in Durkheim
Wednesday	2/4	The Social Construction of Reality Discuss pp. 1 – 92 in Berger and Luckmann.
Wednesday	2/11	Legitimation and reification Discuss pp. 92 – 189 in Berger and Luckmann
Wednesday	2/18	Hermeneutics Discuss chapters 1, 2, and 3 in Palmer
Wednesday	2/25	Phenomenology and Hermeneutics Discuss chapters 8, 9 and 10 in Palmer
Wednesday	3/3	Gadamer's Hermeneutics Discuss chapters 11 and 12 in Palmer
Wednesday	3/10	Spring Break
Wednesday	3/17	Interpreting "The Man in the High Castle" Discuss Dick's "The Man in the High Castle"
Wednesday	3/24	Play, Interaction and Understanding Discuss pp. 101-169 in Truth and Method
Wednesday	3/31	Prejudice and the human condition Discuss pp. 242 – 307 in Truth and Method.
Wednesday	4/7	Reflexive ontology Discuss pp. 307 – 379 in Truth and Method.
Wednesday	4/14	Hermeneutics as a way of being in the world Discuss chapters 13 and 14 in Palmer
Wednesday	4/21	Havel and the Ontology of Truth Discuss Havel's "Disturbing the Peace"
Wednesday	4/28	Closure