PHI 630  *Nature and Event: Going to the Edge of Things*

Wednesday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

E.S. Casey, instructor ([Ecasey3@gmail.com](mailto:Ecasey3@gmail.com))

Office Hours: Mon., 7:30 – 8:30; Wed. 4:00 – 5:00

August 28  Introductory: ancient vs. modern views of nature; nature vs. culture; what is an event? Trajectory of the course; primary objectives

Sept. 4  Early Modern View of Nature as Extended Matter: Descartes in brevis; Spinoza on God; Husserl’s Critique of the Mathematization of Nature I

Reading: (1) Descartes, reading from *Principles of Philosophy*, Part One, sections 51-56, 63-65; Descartes to More, pp. 167-77 (xeroxed pages in folder for the course in main office; please make your own copy); (2) Spinoza, *Ethics*, trans. W.H. White; rev. A.H. Stirling, First Part: Of God: definitions, axioms; propositions #1, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18; (3) Husserl, selections from *The Crisis of European Sciences*, section 8, 9 (esp. subsections a-d): also in main office


Special Guest: David Carr (or next week)

Sept. 11  A First Radical Reaction to Descartes: Spinoza’s Alternative Conception of Nature as an Infinite Attribute of God; Husserl’s Critique of the Mathematization of Nature II

Reading: (1) Spinoza, *Ethics*: First Part: propositions 20, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34; Second Part: Of the Nature and Origins of the Mind: definitions, axioms, propositions 1, 2, 7, 11, 13 (including Corollary, Axioms, Lemmas, and Postulates: pp. 56 – 62), 14, 17, 18, 19; (2) Husserl, *Crisis*, section 9 (esp. sub-sections h, i, k, l);

Sept. 18  Spinoza and Merleau-Ponty on Nature:


Rec. Toadvine, *Merleau-Ponty’s Philosophy of Nature*
Sept. 25  The Second Radical Reaction to Descartes: the Romantic Rebellion


Oct. 2  The Third Radical Reaction: Modern vs. Classical Physics

Reading: Merleau-Ponty, *Nature*, pp. 88 – 112

Rec. Pesic, *Seeing Double*

Special Guest: Robert Crease

Oct. 9  The Fourth Radical Reaction: Recognizing Animate/Animal Life; Modern Biology; the New Feminist Materialisms I


Oct. 16  The New Feminist Materialisms II


Special Guest: Rachel Tillman
Oct. 23  No Class (SPEP meeting in Oregon)
Oct. 30  Whitehead I: *Process and Reality*, Part One, chs. 3 and 4 (pp. 83 – 129)


Nov. 6  Whitehead II


Special Guest: Anderson Weekes


Nov. 13  Heidegger on Event I:

Reading: (1) Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Introduction, esp. par. 4 and 7; also pars. 9 and 12, 58 (xeroxed copy in folder); (2) *Time and Being* I, pp. 1-24 (pdf file available: I’ll try to send this to you)

Special Guest: Francois Raffoul, Louisiana State University

Nov. 14  *Special Event*: Department Lecture by Francois Raffoul: “Thinking The Event” (5:00 p.m. room 214)

Nov. 20  Heidegger on Event II;

Reading: Heidegger, *Time and Being* II, pp. 25-54; *Four Seminars*, esp. Le Thor Seminar, pp. 42–63; Zähringen seminar, pp. 67 -81

Nov. 27  No Class – Thanksgiving

Dec. 4  Heidegger on Event III; Romano on Event and World I

Reading: Romano, *Event and World*, Introduction (sections 1-3); Part I (sections 1-6, 9)

Dec. 11  Extra Class (to make up for missed class Oct. 23) Romano on Event and World II
Reading: Romano, *Event and World*, Part II, sections 10 – 14

*Course Requirements:*

1. Class attendance
2. Oral report: 10 – 15 minutes on a topic related to the reading for that period of the course.
3. Paper: either two short papers (circa 10 pages each) or one longer paper (circa 20 pages)