**Course Requirements**

PHI 388 20th Century Philosophy: Analytical v. Continental

*Dr. James Lawler*

**Course Description**

The history of 20th century philosophy is divided along geographic lines, with Continental Europe on one side, and Great Britain and its colonial offspring, especially the United States, on the other. This course will consider exemplary figures from each side of this divide, based on short articles that explore the relationships between seemingly unlikely pairs. Carnap’s early critique of Heidegger brings into perspective the origins of 20th century thought in 19th century precedents, August Compte and Friedrich Nietzsche. Daniel Dennett argues for a phenomenology distinct from that of Edmund Husserl. Considering seemingly opposite positions of Quine and Heidegger on the role of logic in science brings out surprising compatibilities. Opposition to John Searle’s defense of the correspondence theory of truth finds agreement on both sides of the divide on the part of Michel Foucault and Donald Davidson. But apparent compatibilities between Davidson and Hans Gadamer on the interpretation of texts can conceal the recognition of deeper differences. And there is the issue of the evolution of analytic philosophy itself, with the phenomenon of “postanalytical” thinkers such as Richard Rorty and the later writings of Ludwig Wittgenstein. Through detailed comparisons of exemplary figures the perception of an unbridgeable gulf between two opposing modes of philosophizing will be challenged even as the general outlines of the two orientations are constructively elaborated.

**Course Materials:**

Text for course: C. G. Prado, *A House Divided: Comparing Analytic and Continental Philosophy,* Humanity Books, 2003.

Lecture outlines will be posted on the course website at [www.buffalo.edu/~jlawler](http://www.buffalo.edu/~jlawler). Click on the link to PHI388.

**Requirements:**

1. Students will be responsible for writing a 5-6 page paper during the semester based on one of the chapters in the Prado text. The papers will be assigned at the beginning of the course, and will be due approximately one week after the conclusion of the relevant chapter. The student should focus on one particular topic within the assigned chapter, and comment on it in connection with further research on this topic—through on-line sources such as Wikipedia or the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, bibliographical references from the chapter, as well as primary sources. **40% of final grade.**
2. There will be short quizzes at the end of each chapter based on lectures and course readings. **30% of final grade.** One absence will be allowed without any excuse. After this, a doctor’s statement of medical necessity, or equivalent evidence of a serious reason for missing class, will be required.
3. There will be a final exam during the exam period, based on a list of questions that will summarize central course issues. **30% of final grade.** The main questions will be posted a week before the final exam.

**Syllabus:**

Prado (Introduction)

Rorty (1)

Allen (2) Comte, Nietzsche, Carnap, and Heidegger

Witherspoon (11) Carnap and Heidegger

Babich (3) Nietzsche and Heidegger

Cerbone (4) Husserl and Dennett

Prado (7) Searle and Foucault

Ramberg (8) Gadamer and Davidson

Sanbothe (9) Davidson and Rorty

Clough and Kaplan (5) Davidson and Wittgenstein

Matthews (6) Heidegger and Quine

Stocker (10) Kant, Heidegger, and Strawson