

Philosophy Study Group 2022

Frank Garrett

Two of the strongest currents of Continental philosophy throughout the 20th century were phenomenology and critical theory. Throughout 2022 we will study some of the foundational texts for both schools of thought before examining how those schools merge to form what can be called *critical phenomenology*.

Key terms: phenomenology, critical theory, Frankfurt School, critical race theory, Marxism, political theory, ethics, feminism

January - no meeting

February 4-6

French Phenomenological Beginnings

An Introduction to Metaphysics - Henri Bergson, trans. Hulme (approximately 46 pages)

https://www.google.com/books/edition/An_Introduction_to_Metaphysics/D24YAAAAIAAJ?hl=en

“‘Time’ and ‘History’ in Contemporary Philosophy: With Special Reference to Bergson and Croce” - H. Wildon Carr (19)

March 4-6

German (and Possibly American) Phenomenological Beginnings

“Phenomenology” (1927 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* entry) - Edmund Husserl, trans. Palmer or (possibly) Welton (14)

“The Phenomenological Approach” - Dermot Moran (9)

<https://dermotmoran.com/> (under “Publications”)

“William James and the Development of Phenomenological Psychology in Europe” - Max Herzog (16); or for a more in-depth analysis: “William James and Phenomenology” - James M. Edie (41)

April 1-3: Background to Critical Theory

“Lordship & Bondage” (from *The Phenomenology of Mind*) - G.W.F. Hegel (10)

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/ph/phba.htm>

“Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy in General” (from *Early Writings*) - Karl Marx (22)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/hegel.htm>

“The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof” (from *Capital* vol 1 sec 4) - Marx (15)

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm#S4>

May 6-8

The Beginning of Critical Theory

“Traditional and Critical Theory” (from *Critical Theory*) - Max Horkheimer (19) [Monoskop]

“Cultural Criticism & Society” (from *Prisms*) - Theodor Adorno (19)

June 3-5

Early Phenomenological Analyses

~~“The Phenomenology of Roundness” (from *The Poetics of Space*) - Gaston Bachelard (9)~~

“The Thing” (from *Poetry, Language, Thought* or others; *not to be confused with his longer essay “What Is A Thing?”*) - Martin Heidegger (18)

July 1-3

Advanced Phenomenological Analyses: Emmanuel Levinas

~~“The Phenomenological Theory of Being” (from *The Levinas Reader*) (15)~~

“There is: Existence without Existents” (from *The Levinas Reader*) (7)

“Time and the Other” (from *The Levinas Reader*) (18)

“The Difference Between Genealogy and Phenomenology: The Example of Religion in Nietzsche and Levinas” - William Large (10)

August 5-7

Walter Benjamin and Critical Theory

~~“The Author as Producer” (from *Selected Writings* vol 2 part 2 or *Reflections*) (11)~~

~~“Paris, the Capital of the Nineteenth Century” (from *Selected Writings* vol 3 or *Reflections*) (8)~~

~~“Theological-Political Fragment” (from *Selected Writings* vol 3 or *Reflections*) (2)~~

~~“The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility” (Third Version) (from *Selected Writings* vol 4 or *Illuminations*) (20)~~

“On the Concept of History” (from *Selected Writings* vol 4 or *Illuminations*) (9)

“Paralipomena to ‘On the Concept of History’” (from *Selected Writings* vol 4) (7)

“A Portrait of Walter Benjamin” (from *Prisms*) - Adorno (13)

September 2-4

A Phenomenology of Society: Excerpts from Hannah Arendt’s *The Human Condition*

“The Human Condition” (10)

“The *Vita Activa* and the Modern Age” (79)

October 7-9

Critical Theory Meets American History: Excerpts from Angela Davis’ *Women, Race, and Class*

“The Legacy of Slavery: Standards for a New Womanhood” (15)

“The Meaning of Emancipation According to Black Women” (7)

“Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights” (11)

“The Approaching Obsolescence of Housework: A Working-Class Perspective” (12)

November 4-6

Toward a Phenomenology of Race: Excerpts from Frantz Fanon’s *Black Skin, White Masks*

“Introduction” (8)

“The Negro and Language” (24)

“The Fact of Blackness” (32)

December 2-4

Convergence: Toward a Critical Phenomenology

“Whiteness as Property”: Introduction, The Construction of Race and the Emergence of
Whiteness as Property, Conclusion - Cheryl Harris (38)

“Critical Phenomenology” - Lisa Guenther (6)

“Seeing Like a Cop: A Critical Phenomenology of Whiteness as Property” - Guenther (18)

“Social Death and its Afterlives: A Critical Phenomenology of Solitary Confinement” -
Guenther (11)

<https://queensu.academia.edu/LisaGuenther>