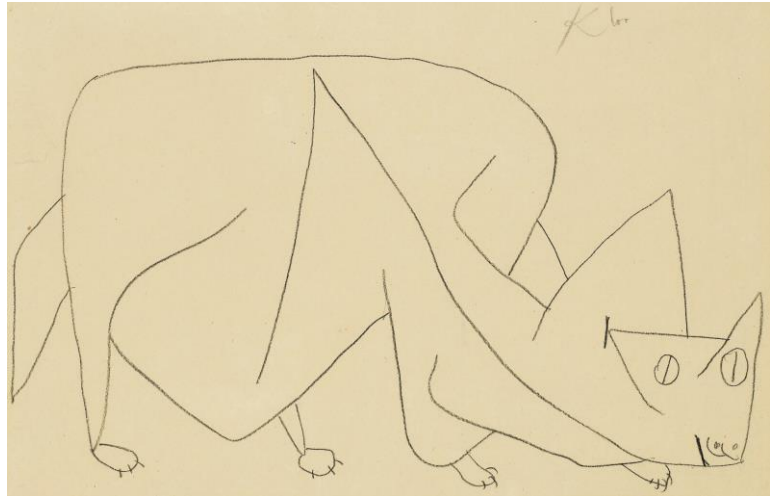


FIL 4532 – RECENT HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY
Seminar: Heidegger's *Being and Time*
Fridays 14.15-16 in GM 141

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Paul Klee, *Katze lauert*, 1939

Course description:

This course is devoted to a careful study of Martin Heidegger's *magnum opus* from 1927, *Being and Time*, including themes both from Division I, being-in-the-world, including mood, modality, sociality, understanding, language and truth, and from Division II, such as selfhood (including authenticity, anxiety, and death), time and history. However, before we even begin reading Division I, we have to discuss Heidegger's Nazism, what consequences his politics should have for our study of the text, and how and whether we can justify devoting our time and work to this text, given its very problematic association.

Being and Time was immediately recognized as an important work, both as a rejuvenation of the phenomenological tradition established by Heidegger's teacher, Edmund Husserl; as establishing hermeneutics as an ontology, not just a theory of interpretation; and as initiating new developments in philosophy, such as existentialism, existentialist psychology and deconstruction. *Being and Time* is considered a classic in Western philosophy and is essential for understanding the development of Continental philosophy in the 20th Century. The course will consist of close reading, lecture and discussion, in which we try to carefully analyze and interpret Heidegger's difficult text. The course plan will be adjustable to interests and difficulties as we go along, but it is the goal of the course to get through Division I within the first 7 weeks and then to carefully work through most of Division II for the remainder of the semester. We will focus on actually understanding what we read, rather

than covering the whole text, so, inevitably, some sections and topics will not be discussed in the seminar.

General requirements:

You are required to **read** 25-50 pages of difficult philosophy each week. Keeping up with the reading and at the same time trying to understand what you read is your most important task in this course. In addition, you should consult secondary sources as you read. At least one reading from secondary sources is assigned every week.

Regular class **attendance** and **participation** in discussion in class is mandatory. You should always come to class having read the relevant sections of the text and be prepared to discuss it in detail. You will have to **present** an article in the second half of the course. The article will be assigned by the instructor (trying to take into consideration input from each student). Further guidelines for presentations will be distributed in February. Students must complete the **written requirement**. This is made up of a short research paper and is the basis for the grade you will receive in the course. Students will be able to choose their own topic, but it needs to be approved by the instructor. It is *essential* that you consult and incorporate secondary sources on Heidegger's text in the final paper. The instructor will be available to recommend and help students find relevant secondary material.

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will lead to an F grade.

