

Philosophy 360
Existentialism
Fall 2021
Assignment #3: Heidegger
(Due Monday, November 15)

Write a 3-4 page (double spaced) response to one of the following topics.

The Question of Being

What is the “question of Being” that Heidegger sets out to reopen in the introduction to *Being and Time*? Why does Heidegger think that it is so important to raise the question of Being again? Why does Heidegger approach the question of Being through an existential analysis of Dasein's everyday existence? What does Heidegger mean when he writes: "*The 'essence' of Dasein lies in its existence*" and why is this statement so significant for Existentialism? To what extent do you think Heidegger is right to emphasize the importance of the question of Being?

Being-in-the-world

Explain Heidegger's expression "Being-in-the-world" and how this notion challenges the Cartesian starting point of modern philosophy. In our everyday practical involvement with things, what is this distinction between encountering entities as "present-at-hand" and "readiness-to-hand"? What does Heidegger mean by "thrownness" and "projection" as characteristics of our being-in-the-world? What is significant about Heidegger's claim that it is our agency, our actions in the world, that defines who we are? What do you think of this notion of our being-in-the-world?

Authenticity

What does Heidegger mean by "authentic existence"? What does Heidegger mean by the "falling" of Dasein into the publicness of the "they"? Why does Heidegger think that the experience of anxiety in the face of death can lead to a "resoluteness" that can lead to authentic existence? Explain what Heidegger perhaps means by the "unshakable joy" that arises in this possibility. What do you think of this notion of authentic existence?

The Question of Technology

What does Heidegger, in “The Question Concerning Technology,” consider to be the main problem with the development of modern technology, and how does he trace this problem back to a way of thinking that began with the ancient Greeks? What does Heidegger mean by the “enframing” (*Ge-Stell*) that makes overcoming the problem of technology so difficult? What does Heidegger suggest as a different way of being-in-the-world that might help us overcome the problem of technology and the environmental crisis that we face today?