

PHIL 451 – First Assignment

The question of being thematized in *Being and Time* was for Aristotle a question about the (cross-categorical) meaning of being. Talk about what kind of unity Aristotle ascribes to the different categories of being and why. Next, discuss how later philosophers tried to rationalize the neglect of this question and why, according to Heidegger, these rationalizations are misguided. After this, explain what Heidegger takes to be the import of Aristotle's remark that "the soul (of the human being) is in a certain way [all] beings" (*Being and Time*, p. 12), keeping in mind the significance of the analysis of Dasein for the inquiry into the meaning of being.

Bonus question (not mandatory but for extra credit): why does Heidegger believe that it is misleading to interpret Aristotelian ontology as a substance doctrine?

Instructions

The questions (with the exception of the bonus question) are all from the first few pages of *Being and Time*, but your familiarity with other texts discussed in class will enable you to do a better job. Try as best as you can to integrate your answers into a cohesive essay, instead of treating each question separately.

I advise you to pay attention to spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The length of the paper should be around 5-7 pages double spaced (please make sure that your paper does not exceed 10 pages). The assignment is due April 30th (Monday) in hard copy.

Make sure that you don't engage in plagiarism in any shape or form; plagiarized or partially-plagiarized papers are pretty much the only contexts where I fail students.

Late assignments up to a week will get a 20% penalty, but I will not accept assignments that are more than a week late.

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I hope you all do a good job, and don't hesitate to set up an appointment with me if you have questions about Heidegger.