Philosophy 731
The Philosophy of Henri Bergson

Barry Allen
Office: UH 301
e-mail: <bgallen@mcmaster.ca>

We will read all of his major works, in a format of lecture and discussion.

Texts


Most of the English translations are available at:
http://www.forgottenbooks.org/search.php?q=bergson&t=author

Most of the original French are available at:

Evaluation

Eight written assignments (one/week) . . . 80%
Participation . . . 10%

Writing Assignments

Weekly assignments are due at the seminar meeting for the material they discuss. So if you plan to write a reflection on, say, *Matter and Memory*, chapter 2, that work will be due on the day we discuss that chapter and not later.

These weekly reflections cannot be summaries. Instead, I want you to find a point, a topic, an argument from the selected pages, explain its significance, and offer some philosophical elucidation of what the point is, why it is interesting to you, and any difficulties you perceive. In writing these reflections, I expect you to use mostly your own words. No long quotations, no notes, unless you refer to material other than our texts. Length should be about one thousand words.

If instead of weekly assignments you want to pursue a research paper on this material, that can be accommodated and we should talk about it.