

**Philosophy 731**  
**The Philosophy of Henri Bergson**

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

Texts

Henri Bergson, *Time and Free Will*, trans. F. L. Pogson (Dover, 2001)

Henri Bergson, *Matter and Memory*, trans. Nancy Margaret Paul and W. Scott Palmer (Dover, 2004)

Henri Bergson, *Creative Evolution*, trans. Arthur Mitchell (Dover, 1998)

Henri Bergson, *The Two Sources of Morality and Religion*, trans. R. Ashley Audra and Cloudesley Brereton (University of Notre Dame Press, 1977)

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:  
[http://classiques.uqac.ca/classiques/bergson\\_henri/bergson\\_henri.html](http://classiques.uqac.ca/classiques/bergson_henri/bergson_henri.html)

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.