

**PHIL 5360 Seminar on Continental European Philosophy:  
Merleau-Ponty: Phenomenology and Art**

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Tutorial: 30%; 1 Short Essay: 20%; Final Essay: 50%

**Objectives:**

This seminar is devoted to the detailed study of works of the French phenomenological philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961). After a brief introduction to the beginning phase of the phenomenological movement (Husserl and Heidegger), the study of the two central themes of Merleau-Ponty's 1945 master work *Phenomenology of Perception*, namely the body-subject and the perceptual world, will serve as a key to understand the basic character of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology. The seminar will then examine Merleau-Ponty's writings on art to illustrate what a phenomenological approach to art amounts to. The reading of these texts will be guided by the following lines of interpretation: Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology of the body-subject is a subject of expression; his phenomenology of perception questions the enigma of the visible. These elements constitute a privileged approach to the study of art work.

**Primary Readings:**

1. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception*, Eng. trans. Donald A. Landes (London & New York: Routledge, 2012).
2. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "Cézanne's Doubt", "Indirect Language and the Voice of Silence" and "Eye and Mind", in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, ed. G. A. Johnson (Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1993).

**Secondary Readings will be provided later.**