

**PHIL5360 Seminar on Continental European Philosophy:
Merleau-Ponty: Phenomenology and Art**

Course Outline

Mode of Teaching: Face-to-face

Term: 2021-22 Term 2

Time: Thursday 18:30 – 21:30

Location : YIA LT7

Course overview (as shown on CUSIS)

This seminar is devoted to the detailed study of representative works of the French phenomenological philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961). It begins by an introduction to the phenomenological movement via a brief presentation of some main contributions of its two German initiators Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) and Martin Heidegger (1889-1976). Then the study of the two correlated main themes of Merleau-Ponty's 1945 masterwork *Phenomenology of Perception*, namely the body-subject and the perceptual world, will serve as a key to understand the basic features of the French phenomenologist's central doctrine. The final part of the seminar will be devoted to the study of Merleau-Ponty's writings on art to illustrate what a phenomenological approach to art means. The study of these texts will be guided by the following lines of understanding: the body-subject in Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology 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 artwork.

Course Schedule / Topics

1. (13 Jan 22) Introduction. The double background of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology: German phenomenology and the rise of the human sciences

Readings:

- a. R. Bernet, "Husserl", in S. Critchley & W. R. Schroeder (eds.), *A Companion to Continental Philosophy* (Malden & Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998), pp. 198-207.
- b. J. Taminiaux, "Philosophy of Existence I: Heidegger", in R. Kearney (ed.), *Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy* (London & New York: Routledge, 1994), pp. 38-57.
- c. 劉國英：〈從邏輯到歷史：胡塞爾的現象學道路（編者序）〉，《現象學與人文科學》，第7期，〈從邏輯到歷史：胡塞爾專輯〉，2018，頁 vii-xxix。
- d. 劉國英：〈現象學還原與海德格的現象學概念〉，《鵝湖月刊》，台北，1989年4月，頁 41-50。
- e. 劉國英：〈編者序：如何面對海德格的思想遺產？〉，《現象學與人文科學》，第5期，〈海德格：詮釋現象學及其蛻變—《存在與時間》專輯〉，2014，頁 vii-xx。
- f. 劉國英：〈梅洛龐蒂錯解海德格？——重探《存在與時間》與胡塞爾的關係及基本存在論計劃的一些缺失〉，《現象學與人文科學》，第5期，2014，頁163-192。

2. (20 Jan) Merleau-Ponty's basic philosophical outlook

Readings:

- a. Merleau-Ponty, M. *The World of Perception*.
- b. 劉國英：〈梅洛龐蒂的現象學方法〉，《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》，（台北：漫遊者文化事業股份有限公司，2018），第6章，頁 159–172。
- c. 劉國英：〈梅洛龐蒂：以人文科學改造現象學（編者序）〉，《現象學與人文科學》第6期，〈梅洛龐蒂：以人文科學改造現象學〉專輯，2016，頁 vii-xxix。

3. (27 Jan) Learning to see: perception as a clue to phenomenological philosophy

Readings:

- a. M. Merleau-Ponty, “The Primacy of Perception and Its Philosophical Consequences”, in *The Primacy of Perception And Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History and Politics*, pp. 12-42.
 - b. 劉國英：〈梅洛龐蒂的肉身主體現象學及其哲學意涵〉，《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》，第7章，頁173-220。
4. (10, 17 Feb) Phenomenology of the body (I): corporeal intentionality and body-schema
Readings:
 - a. “The Spatiality of One’s Own Body and Motricity”, Pt I, Ch. III, *Phenomenology of Perception*, new Eng. trans. Donald A. Landes, pp. 100-148.
 - b. “The Synthesis of One’s own Body”, Pt I, Ch. IV, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 149-155.
 5. (24 Feb, 3 Mar) Phenomenology of the body (II): existential dimensions of the body
Readings:
 - a. “The Body as a Sexed Being”, Pt I, Ch. V, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 156-178.
 - b. “The Body as Expression, and Speech”, Pt I, Ch. VI, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 179-205.
 6. (10, 17 Mar) The perceptual world and spatiality
Readings:
 - a. “Space”, Pt II, Ch. II, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 253-311.
 - b. “The Thing and the Natural World”, Pt II, Ch. III, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 312-360.
 7. (24, 31 Mar) The Subject and her freedom
Readings:
 - a. “The Cogito”, Pt III, Ch. I, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 387-431.
 - b. “Freedom”, Pt III, Ch. III, *Phenomenology of Perception*, pp. 458-483.
 8. (7, 14 Apr) Early phenomenology of cinema and painting
Readings:
 - a. “Cézanne’s Doubt”, in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, pp. 59-75.
 - b. “The Film and the New Psychology”, in *Sense and Non-Sense*, pp. 48-59.
 - c. 劉國英：〈視見之瘋狂——梅洛龐蒂哲學中畫家作為現象學家〉，刊《視覺的思想：現象學與藝術國際學術研討會論文集》，孫周興、高士明編（杭州：中國美術學院出版社，2003），頁26-40；Kwok-ying LAU, “La folie de la vision : le peintre comme phénoménologue chez Merleau-Ponty”, *Chiasmi International. Trilingual Studies Concerning Merleau-Ponty’s Thought*, New Series No. 10, 2008 (Milano: Mimesis Edizioni), pp. 163-182 ; “The Madness of Vision: The Painter as Phenomenologist in Merleau-Ponty”, in *Corporeity and Affectivity: Dedicated to Maurice Merleau-Ponty*, eds. K. Novotný, P. Rodrigo, J. Slatman and S. Stöller (Leiden-Boston: Brill Verlag, 2014), pp. 161-181.
 9. (21 Apr) Final Ontology of the visible and art
Readings:
 - a. “Indirect Language and the Voices of Silence”, in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, pp. 76-120.
 - b. “Eye and Mind”, in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, pp. 121-149.
 - c. Kwok-ying LAU, “The Flesh: From Ontological Employment to Intercultural Employment”, in *Phenomenology and Intercultural Understanding: Toward a New Cultural Flesh* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2016), Chapter 10, pp. 173-192 ; 劉國英：〈肌膚存在——從存在論層面到跨文化層面的運用〉，《現象學與人文科學》第6期，2016，頁75-108。
 - d. 劉國英：〈肌膚存在與不可見者——晚期梅洛龐蒂的存在論道路〉，《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》，第9章，頁241-272.

Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)

1. Demonstrate a solid grasp of the issues discussed.
2. Analyze and critically interpret some significant primary texts in Continental European Philosophy.
3. Demonstrate an enhanced ability to conduct independent research on the topics covered and related issues.

Learning activities

Other than lectures, 5 sessions of tutorials will be organized:

MA students: 17 Feb, 3 Mar, 17 Mar, 31 Mar, 14 Apr (20:15 - 21:45)

MPhil students: 18 Feb, 4 Mar, 18 Mar, 1 Apr, 22 Apr (16:30 - 18:15)

Tutorial Readings

1. a. "The Primacy of Perception and Its Philosophical Consequences", in *The Primacy of Perception*, pp. 12-27.
b. "The Spatiality of One's Own Body and Motricity", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt I, Ch. III, pp. 100-114; 137-143.
2. a. "The Body as a Sexed Being", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt I, Ch. V, pp. 156-178.
b. "The Body as Expression, and Speech", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt I, Ch. VI, pp. 179-205.
3. a. "Space", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt II, Ch. II, pp. 253-279.
b. "The Thing and the Natural World", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt II, Ch. III, pp. 331-349.
4. a. "The Cogito", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt III, Ch. I, pp. 387-403; 426-431.
b. "Freedom", *Phenomenology of Perception*, Pt III, Ch. 3, pp. 458-473; 478-483.
5. a. "Cézanne's Doubt", in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, pp. 59-75.
b. "Eye and Mind", in *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, pp. 121-149.

Assessment scheme

| Task nature | Description | Weight |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------|
| Mid-term Essay | | 20 % |
| Final Essay | | 50% |
| Tutorial and discussion | | 30 % |

Remarks on Assessment Scheme (if any)

Grade Descriptor

Please refer to: http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended learning resources

A. Main Texts of Merleau-Ponty used

1. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Structure of Behavior*, Eng. Trans. Alden L. Fisher (Boston: Beacon Press, 1967).

2. -- *Phenomenology of Perception*, Eng. trans. Donald A. Landes (London & New York: Routledge, 2012).
3. -- *The World of Perception*, Eng. trans. Oliver Davis (London and New York: Routledge, 2004).
4. -- *The Primacy of Perception And Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History and Politics*, ed. & introd. James M. Edie (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1964).
5. -- *Sense and Non-sense*, Eng. trans. Hubert L. Dreyfus and Patricia Allen Dreyfus (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1964).
6. -- *The Merleau-Ponty Aesthetics Reader*, ed. G. A. Johnson (Evanston, Illinois: Northwestern University Press, 1993).

B. Useful Commentaries on Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology

Articles or Chapters in Anthology:

1. Waldenfels, B. "Merleau-Ponty", in S. Critchley & W. R. Schroeder (eds.), *A Companion to Continental Philosophy* (Malden & Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998), pp. 281-291.
2. Jack Reynolds, "Maurice Merleau-Ponty", in *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://www.iep.utm.edu/merleau/>
3. Cullen, B. "Philosophy of Existence 3. Merleau-Ponty", in R. Kearney (ed.), *Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy* (London & New York: Routledge, 1994), pp. 105-130.
4. Moran, D. "Ch. 12: Maurice Maurice Merleau-Ponty: the phenomenology of perception", in *Introduction to Phenomenology* (London and New York: Routledge, 2000), pp. 391-434.
5. Gutting, G. "Ch. 7: Merleau-Ponty", in *French Philosophy in the Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Pr., 2001), pp. 181-212.
6. Matthews, Eric. "Ch. 5: Phenomenology and Existentialism: 2. Merleau-Ponty", in *Twentieth-Century French philosophy* (Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 85-107.
7. Spiegelberg, H. "The Phenomenological Philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961)", in *The Phenomenological Movement* (The Hague: M. Nijhoff, 3rd ed., 1980), Part 3, Chap. XI, pp. 537-584; 中譯本:《現象學運動》,赫伯特·施皮格伯格著,王炳文、張金言譯(北京:商務印書館,1995),第十一章,頁738-799。
8. Toadvine, Ted. "Maurice Merleau-Ponty", in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (1st published 2016), <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/merleau-ponty/>
9. 劉國英:〈梅洛龐蒂:以人文科學改造現象學(編者序)〉,《現象學與人文科學》,第6期,2016,頁vii-xxix。
10. 劉國英:〈梅洛龐蒂的現象學方法〉,《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》(台北:漫遊者文化事業股份有限公司,2018),第6章,頁159-172。
11. 劉國英:〈梅洛龐蒂的肉身主體現象學及其哲學意涵〉,《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》,第7章,頁173-220。
12. 劉國英:〈「人是政治動物」——從現象學觀點理解亞里士多德的「人禽之辨」〉,《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》,第8章,頁221-240。
13. LAU Kwok-ying, "Intersubjectivity and Phenomenology of the Other: Merleau-Ponty's Contribution", in *Space, Time, Culture*, ed. D. Carr and CHEUNG Chan-Fai, (Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004), pp. 135-158.
14. 劉國英:〈視見之瘋狂——梅洛龐蒂哲學中畫家作為現象學家〉,刊《視覺的思想:現象學與藝術國際學術研討會論文集》,孫周興、高士明編(杭州:中國美術學院出版社,2003),頁26-40; Kwok-ying LAU, "La folie de la vision: le peintre comme phénoménologue chez Merleau-Ponty", *Chiasmi International. Trilingual Studies Concerning Merleau-Ponty's Thought*, New Series No. 10, 2008 (Milano: Mimesis Edizioni), pp. 163-182; "The Madness of Vision: The Painter as Phenomenologist in Merleau-Ponty", in *Corporeity and Affectivity: Dedicated to Maurice Merleau-Ponty*, eds. K. Novotný, P. Rodrigo, J. Slatman and S. Stöller (Leiden-Boston: Brill Verlag, 2014), pp. 161-181.
15. 劉國英:〈肌膚存在與不可見者——晚期梅洛龐蒂的存在論道路〉,《法國現象學的蹤跡——從沙特到德里達》,第9章,頁241-272。
16. Kwok-ying LAU, "The Flesh: From Ontological Employment to Intercultural Employment", in *Phenomenology and Intercultural Understanding: Toward a New Cultural Flesh* (Dordrecht:

Springer, 2016), Chapter 10, pp. 173-192 ; 劉國英：〈肌膚存在——從存在論層面到跨文化層面的運用〉，《現象學與人文科學》，第6期，〈從現象學到人文科學——梅洛龐蒂專輯〉，2016，頁75-108。

17. Kwok-ying LAU, "Lévi-Strauss and Merleau-Ponty: from Nature-Culture Distinction to Savage Spirit and their Intercultural Implications", in *Phenomenology and Intercultural Understanding: Toward a New Cultural Flesh*, Chapter 9, pp. 153-171.
18. Kwok-ying LAU, "Who is the Philosopher whose Shadow Merleau-Ponty is Facing?—"The Philosopher and His Shadow" (Re-)Revisited", paper presented to OPO III, World Conference on Phenomenology held 15-20 December 2008, at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, 19 pages.
19. Kwok-ying LAU, "Phenomenology and Anthropology: From Husserl to Merleau-Ponty and Back", in *The Applied Phenomenology*, Proceedings of the 3rd PEACE International Conference (Phenomenology for East-Asian Circle), organized by the Korean Society for Phenomenology and The SNU Institute of Philosophy, September 18-21, 2009, at Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, pp. 87-107.
20. LAU Kwok-ying, "Merleau-Ponty's Contribution Towards a Philosophy of Nature", paper presented to the "Second Symposium On Field-Being and The Non-Substantialistic Turn" organized by The International Institute for Field-Being, Fairfield University, U.S.A., August 4-9, 1998 at Fairfield, Connecticut.

Monographs

1. Barbaras, Renaud. *Desire and Distance: Introduction to a Phenomenology of Perception*, Eng. Trans. Paul B. Milan (Stanford, Calif. : Stanford University Press, 2006).
2. Carman, Talyor. *Merleau-Ponty* (London and New York: Routledge, 2008, 2nd ed. 2020).
3. Dillon, M. C. *Merleau-Ponty's Ontology* (Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1988).
4. Landes, Donald A. *The Merleau-Ponty Dictionary* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013).
5. Langer, Monika. *Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology of Perception: A Guide and Commentary* (Basingstoke: MacMillan Pr., 1989).
6. Low, Douglas. *In Defense of Phenomenology: Merleau-Ponty's Philosophy* (London: Routledge, 2017).
7. Madison, G. B. *The Phenomenology of Merleau-Ponty: A Search for the Limits of Consciousness* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1981).
8. Matthews, Eric. *Merleau-Ponty: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London & New York: Continuum, 2006).
9. Matthews, Eric. *The Philosophy of Merleau-Ponty* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002).
10. Priest, Stephen. *Merleau-Ponty* (London and New York: Routledge, 1998).
11. Primozic, Daniel Thomas. *On Merleau-Ponty* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth / Thomson Learning, 2001).
12. Romdenh-Romluc, Komarine. *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Merleau-Ponty and Phenomenology of Perception* (London and New York: Routledge, 2011).
13. Zaner, Richard M. *The Problem of Embodiment. Some Contributions to a Phenomenology of the Body* (The Hague: M. Nijhoff, 1964, Part III).
14. 楊大春：《梅洛龐蒂》(台北：生智，2003)。
15. 寧曉萌：《表達與存在——梅洛-龐蒂現象學研究》(北京：北京大學出版社，2013)。

Anthologies of Critical Studies

1. Alloa, E., Chourago, F. & Kaushik, R. (eds.) *Merleau-Ponty and Contemporary Philosophy* (Albany, New York: SUNY Press, 2019).
2. Carman, T & Hansen, M. B. N. (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to Merleau-Ponty* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
3. Dillon, M. C. (ed.) *Merleau-Ponty vivant* (Albany, New York: SUNY Press, 1991).
4. Diprose, R. & Reynolds, J. (eds.) *Merleau-Ponty: Key Concepts* (Stocksfield: Acumen, 2008).
5. Flynn, B., Froman, W. T. & Vallier, R. (eds.) *Merleau-Ponty and the Possibilities of Philosophy. Transforming the Tradition* (Albany, New York: SUNY Press, 2009).
6. Semonovitch, K. & DeRoo, N. (eds.) *Merleau-Ponty at the Limits of Art, Religion and Perception* (London/New York: Continuum, 2010).
7. Toadvine, Ted (ed.) *Merleau-Ponty: Critical Assessments of Leading Philosophers*, vols. 1-4 (London: Routledge, 2006).

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Academic honesty and plagiarism

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