

PHIL 390 (2023-24 Term 1). Honours Seminar. Credits: 6
Wed. 3:00-6:00pm. BUCH-B304
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Office hours: TBA

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

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This course is a seminar for third and fourth year Philosophy Honours Students. The course will be devoted to a close reading of Maurice Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception* (first published in French as *Phénoménologie de la perception* in 1945, with a new English translation by Donald A. Landes published in 2012). This is one of the major works of twentieth century philosophy, particularly of the philosophical tradition of Phenomenology originated by Edmund Husserl.

This course counts as 6 credits, making the workload roughly double that of a typical one-semester philosophy course. Since the course is a seminar, **you must do the reading assignment before class and come prepared to talk about it.**

Study questions for the entire text will be available at Canvas. As you do the assigned reading each week, you should go over the corresponding questions and do your best to formulate answers to them. We will work through the questions together in class as a way of generating discussion. The point is not to get the "right" answers (many of the questions are interpretative) but to use the study questions to guide your attention to the text, so that you can think about the ideas, analyses, and arguments it contains.

Required Book: available at the UBC bookstore, or from your preferred book seller. If you have trouble acquiring the book, contact me.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, **trans. Donald Landes**, *Phenomenology of Perception*. Routledge Press, 2012. [PP] MAKE SURE YOU GET THIS TRANSLATION BY LANDES. DO NOT USE THE OLDER (1962) ONE BY COLIN SMITH.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation: 20% There will be a sign-in sheet to record attendance. If you need to be absent for any reason, you should notify me in advance. **Since this is a seminar, you should not plan on taking it unless you can attend regularly.** Participation will consist in being prepared to respond to the study questions on the reading (we will go around the room so that everyone gets a turn).

2 short papers, each worth 15%, and two longer papers, each worth 25%. Details will be posted Canvas.

Statement on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs when an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as their own. Scholarship rests on examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. When another person's words (i.e., phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. **Using ChatGPT or other AI content generators to generate any portion of your written work counts as plagiarism in this course.** Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. For further information, please review the UBC Calendar Academic regulations for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (See the UBC Calendar, under "Academic Regulations," and "Student Conduct and Discipline": <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>.)

PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT, as well as possible further disciplinary action by the University.

Email Policy

The following guidelines apply to email communication during this course:

- I will make every effort to reply to legitimate email inquiries with 24 hours during weekdays but will likely take longer to respond to email during the weekend.
- Each email message should include in the Subject line the course identifier and a clear statement of purpose (e.g., PHIL 347: Question about Paper).

Schedule

We will begin in the first class with the famous “Preface” to the *Phenomenology of Perception* and then reread it for the last class meeting in light of having read the whole text.

Week 1: Sept 6 Introduction

PP: Preface (pp. lxx-lxxxv).

Week 2: Sept. 13

PP: Introduction I-IV (pp. 3-65)

Week 3: Sept 20

PP: Part One: Introduction, I-II (pp. 69-99)

Week 4: Sept 27

PP: Part One: III-IV (pp. 100-155)

Week 5: Oct. 4

PP: Part One: V & VI (pp. 156-205)

Week 6: Oct. 11

PP: Part Two: Introduction & I (pp. 209-252).

Week 7: Oct. 18

PP: Part Two: II (pp. 253-311)

Week 8: Oct. 25

PP: Part Two: III (pp. 312-360)

Week 9: Nov. 1

PP: Part Two: IV (pp. 361-383)

Week 10: Nov. 8

PP: Part Three: I (pp. 387-431)

Week 11 Nov. 15 No Class (Mid-term Break)

Week 12: Nov. 22:

PP: Part Three: II (pp. 432-457)

Week 13: Nov. 29:

PP: Part Three: III (pp. 458-483)

Week 14: Dec 6:

PP: Preface (pp. lxx-lxxxv).