PHIL4450/01
MAJOR FIGURES IN PHILOSOPHY: MERLEAU-PONTY
Dr. A. K. Whitehead
Fall 2015

Location: Social Sciences Building Room 3032
Time(s): Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00-15:15

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Office: Social Sciences Building 4097
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Communication:
All emails must be sent to awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu. Please allow 72 hours for reply. Face-to-face meetings can be scheduled on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, and must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Electronic Communications:
The University provides all KSU students with an "official" email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

Catalogue Course Description:
An in-depth examination of a major figure in philosophy from the early pre-Socratics to contemporary figures and including non-Western figures. Course may be repeated if the course content is different.

Instructor's Course Description:
The course outlines the significant dimensions and the major themes of the 20th century philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Merleau-Ponty is arguably one of the most influential philosophers of the second half of the twentieth century, and played a key role in the development of the French phenomenological tradition. Students will be invited to study key texts, methods, and concepts articulated in and by this major philosophical figure.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of phenomenological questions, the phenomenological movement, and the phenomenological method.
2. Question claims made by Merleau-Ponty and to learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the latent philosophy of 'ordinary' experience and its implications for contemporary understandings of freedom.
4. Achieve competency in the technical terminology of phenomenology and existentialism.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenological philosophy with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Text:
The Phenomenology of Perception
978-0415278416
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Kegan Paul (trans.)
Routledge
Recommended Texts:
Phénoménologie de la Perception
978-2070293377
Maurice Merleau-Ponty
Gallimard

The Philosophy of Merleau-Ponty
978-0773523845
Eric Matthews
McGill Queens University Press

The Primacy of Perception
978-0810101647
Northwestern University Press

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Failure to attend will have negative consequences on student grades.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. No recordings, of any kind, are allowed in class. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ grades.

Course Assessment:
- Reflective Essay 1  25%
- Reflective Essay 2  25%
- Presentation 10%
- Major Term-Paper 40%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided. ***

Description of Assignments:

Reflective Essays: Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1" margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 600 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 2, 3, or 4; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9), providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least one primary reading selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (7) As outlined above
   (4) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

Presentation: All students must sign-up for a presentation. Presentations will provide a summary of the reading for that instruction period, with a focus on raising critical questions and demonstrating clarification of key ideas. You are required to have hand-outs for the class.

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1" margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 2000 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than October 31.
order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor to take place no later than October 24 and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the instructor no later than October 30 following a scheduled meeting for thesis approval no later than October 23.
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (7) As outlined above
   (4) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the instructor
5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A — 100 – 90
B — 89 – 80
C — 79 – 70
D — 69 – 60
F — <60

Academic Integrity:
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures.

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.
Your Professors and Instructors

**ADA Compliance:**
Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

**Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):**

**Week 1—Aug. 18 and Aug. 20**
Introduction: Real-Life Problems and the Project of Phenomenology

**Week 2—Aug. 25 and Aug. 27**
Preface
Reading(s): PoP, 'Preface', pp. vii – xxiv

**Week 3—Sept. 1 and Sept. 3**
Traditional Prejudices and the Return to Phenomena
Reading(s): PoP, 'Introduction', pp. 3 – 74

**Week 4—Sept. 8 and Sept. 10**
The Body
Reading(s): PoP, 'The Body', pp. 77 – 232

**Week 5—Sept. 15 and Sept. 17**
**Reflective Essay 1 Due Sept. 15**
The Body (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'The Body', pp. 77 – 232

**Week 6—Sept. 22 and Sept. 24**
The Body (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'The Body', pp. 77 – 232

**Week 7—Sept. 29 and Oct. 1**
The World as Perceived
Reading(s): PoP, 'The World as Perceived', pp. 235 – 425

**Week 8—Oct. 6**
The World as Perceived (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'The World as Perceived', pp. 235 – 425

**Week 9—Oct. 13 and Oct. 15**
The World as Perceived (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'The World as Perceived', pp. 235 – 425

**Week 10—Oct. 20 and Oct. 22**
**Reflective Essay 2 Due Oct. 20**
The World as Perceived (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'The World as Perceived', pp. 235 – 425

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1 No Class Thursday October 8th. Optional attendance at meeting of SPEP in Atlanta.
Week 11—Oct. 29 and Oct. 31
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 12—Nov. 3 and Nov. 5
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont'd)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 13—Nov. 10 and Nov. 12
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont'd)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 14—Nov. 17\(^2\)
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont'd)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 15—Dec. 1 and Dec. 3
**Major Term-Paper due Dec. 3**
Senior Seminar Student Presentations (December 1 SO5074)
Review and Discussion

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Labour Day Break: Sept. 5 - 7
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Sept. 9
- Reflective Essay 1 Due Date: Sept. 15
- Reflective Essay 2 Due Date: Oct. 20
- Major Term-Paper Approval Consultation Deadline: Oct. 24
- Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline: Oct. 31
- Major Term-Paper Due Date: Dec. 3
- Fall Break: Nov. 23 – 29

\(^2\) No Class on Thursday November 19\(^{th}\).
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Office: Social Sciences Building 4097
Office Hours: By Appointment

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Electronic Communications:
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Catalogue Course Description:
The course is a combined tutorial and seminar in which students research and write a senior thesis in addition to making a computer-based presentation in class.

Instructor's Course Description:
The course outlines the significant dimensions and the major themes of the 20th century philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Merleau-Ponty is arguably one of the most influential philosophers of the second half of the twentieth century, and played a key role in the development of the French phenomenological tradition. Students will be invited to study key texts, methods, and concepts articulated in and by this major philosophical figure.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of phenomenological questions, the phenomenological movement, and the phenomenological method.
2. Question claims made by Merleau-Ponty and to learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the latent philosophy of 'ordinary' experience and its implications for contemporary understandings of freedom.
4. Achieve competency in the technical terminology of phenomenology and existentialism.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of Merleau-Ponty’s phenomenological philosophy with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Text:
The Phenomenology of Perception
978-0415278416
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Kegan Paul (trans.)
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Recommended Texts:
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Maurice Merleau-Ponty
Gallimard

The Philosophy of Merleau-Ponty
978-0773523845
Eric Matthews
McGill Queens University Press

The Primacy of Perception
978-0810101647
Maurice Merleau Ponty, James. M. Edie (ed.), William Cobb (trans.)
Northwestern University Press

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Failure to attend will have negative consequences on student grades.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. No recordings, of any kind, are allowed in class. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ grades.

Course Assessment:
- Research Summaries 20%
- Presentation 20%
- Major Term-Paper 60%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided.***

Description of Assignments:

Research Summaries: You are required to write 15 research summaries of secondary texts. Your research summaries should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 600 words on a secondary source text related to your thesis and any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 2, 3, or 4; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9), providing philosophical reflection and a detailed account on the thesis of the text and how it relates to your project. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded on a pass/fail basis in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (7) As outlined above
   (4) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

Presentation: All senior seminar students must deliver a presentation on December 1 2015. Presentations will provide a summary of your major research paper for PHIL4499, and will be followed by a public Q&A. Failure to deliver a presentation will result in a failing grade for the course.

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see
You are required to write 3000 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than September 3. In order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor to take place no later than September 1 and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the instructor no later than October 30 following a scheduled meeting for thesis approval no later than October 23.
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations (As outlined above)
   (Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
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5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A — 100 – 90
B — 89 – 80
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D — 69 – 60
F — <60

Academic Integrity:

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To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or
proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

ADA Compliance:
Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):

Week 1—Aug. 18 and Aug. 20
Introduction: Real-Life Problems and the Project of Phenomenology

Week 2—Aug. 25 and Aug. 27
Preface

Week 3—Sept. 1 and Sept. 3
Traditional Prejudices and the Return to Phenomena
Reading(s): PoP, ‘Introduction’, pp.3 – 74

Week 4—Sept. 8 and Sept. 10
The Body

Week 5—Sept. 15 and Sept. 17
**Reflective Essay 1 Due Sept. 15**
The Body (cont’d)

Week 6—Sept. 22 and Sept. 24
The Body (cont’d)

Week 7—Sept. 29 and Oct. 1
The World as Perceived

Week 8—Oct. 6
The World as Perceived (cont’d)

Week 9—Oct. 13 and Oct. 15
The World as Perceived (cont’d)

Week 10—Oct. 20 and Oct. 22
**Research Summaries Due Oct. 20**
The World as Perceived (cont’d)

1 No Class Thursday October 8th. Optional attendance at meeting of SPEP in Atlanta.
Reading(s): PoP, 'The World as Perceived', pp.235 – 425

Week 11—Oct. 29 and Oct. 31
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 12—Nov. 3 and Nov. 5
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 13—Nov. 10 and Nov. 12
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 14—Nov. 17²
Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World (cont’d)
Reading(s): PoP, 'Being-for-Itself and Being-in-the-World', pp.429 – 530

Week 15—Dec. 1 and Dec. 3
**Major Term-Paper due Dec. 3**
Senior Seminar Student Presentations (December 1 SO5074)
Review and Discussion

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Labour Day Break: Sept. 5 - 7
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Sept. 9
- Reflective Essay 1 Due Date: Sept. 15
- Reflective Essay 2 Due Date: Oct. 20
- Major Term-Paper Approval Consultation Deadline: Oct. 24
- Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline: Oct. 31
- Major Term-Paper Due Date: Dec. 3
- Fall Break: Nov. 23 - 29

² No Class on Thursday November 19th.