

Course Description: This course will consist primarily in close readings of two great works in the phenomenological tradition, Heidegger's *Being and Time* and Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception*. We will address questions such as:

- the essence of human experience, or the first-person point-of-view;
- the relationships between human beings and their physical and social environments;
- the role of the body in enabling or constituting experience;
- what it means to be an "authentic" versus "inauthentic" self;
- the appropriate attitude to take to human finitude and mortality;
- the relations between first-personal and scientific approaches to human experience;
- and the philosophical methodology best suited to address all of the above questions.

We will also read selections from other major figures, such as Husserl, Sartre, Beauvoir, and Fanon. Depending on student interest, we will conclude the course either by looking back to the historical precursors of 20th-century phenomenology and existentialism, such as Nietzsche and Kierkegaard, or by looking forward to the role of phenomenology in contemporary debates in philosophy of mind, action, and cognitive science.

Required Texts

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, Macquarrie & Robinson translation (Harper)

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception*, Landes translation (Routledge)

- All other assignments will be available on bSpace or the web

Recommended Secondary Literature

Hubert Dreyfus, *Being-in-the-World: A Commentary on Heidegger's Being and Time, Division I*

Komarine Romdenh-Romluc, *GuideBook to Merleau-Ponty and Phenomenology of Perception*

Rough Course Schedule

- 2 weeks (January): James, Husserl, and puzzles surrounding the experience of time
- 4-5 weeks (February): Heidegger's *Being and Time*
- 3 weeks (March): Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception*
- 4 weeks (April-May): depending on student interest, selections from other major figures (e.g., Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Beauvoir, Fanon) or from contemporary debates.

Course Readings

Introduction to Phenomenology: Philosophy & Psychology of the Experience of Time

William James, *Principles of Psychology*, Ch.15, "The Perception of Time"

Edmund Husserl, *On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time*

- John Barnett Brough, *Translator's Introduction*, "Some Themes from Husserl's Phenomenology of Time, Temporal Objects, and the Consciousness of Time," (pp. xviii-xix)
- "The Lectures on the Consciousness of Internal Time from the Year 1905," §1-2 (pp.3-10), §7-14 (pp.21-38), §26-27 (pp.57-61)

Sean Kelly, "The Puzzle of Temporal Experience"

Husserl, “Phenomenology,” article written for *Encyclopedia Britannica*
Recommended reading: Taylor Carman, “Husserl and Heidegger”
Recommended: Husserl, “Pure Phenomenology, Its Method and Its Field of Investigation”

Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*

Introduction I, §1-4 (19-35, [1-15, *German pagination in margins*])

John Haugeland, “The Being Question” (51-63)

Introduction II, §5-8 (36-64 [15-40])

Dasein and being-in-the-world, §9-13 (65-90 [41-62])

Worldliness, §14-18 (91-122 [63-88])

Being-with and *the one* (or the “they”), §25-27 (149-168 [113-30])

Mood, §28–30 (169-182 [130-42])

Understanding, interpretation, and discourse, §31-4 (182-210 [142-66])

Idle talk, falling, anxiety §35-8, 40 (211-224, 228-235 [166-80, 184-191])

Death, §45-53 (274-311 [231-67])

Shelly Kagan, Lecture 16: [Dying Alone \(first 35 minutes\)](#)

Guilt, §54-60 (312-348 [267-301])

Jean-Paul Sartre, “Self-Consciousness,” and “Encounter with the Other” (51-7, 188-208)
(See below for further selections from Sartre)

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*

“Learn to Speak Body: Tape 5,” *Mitchell Rose Films* (youtube.com/watch?v=x9YTxff3pHU)

“The Body as an Object and Mechanistic Psychology,” (75-91 [*French* 101-118])

“The Spatiality of One’s Own Body and Motricity,” (100-12, 122-9, 135-40, 147-8 [127-40, 152-60, 167-74, 181-3])

“Sensing,” (214-29, 242-4, 246-52 [251-65, 280-2, 284-9])

“Others and the Human World,” (361-383 [403-424])

“The *Cogito*,” (387-431 [427-470])

“Freedom,” (458-483 [497-521])

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

“Introduction” (xiii-xviii); “The Data of Biology” (33-7); “Myth and Reality” (256-7); “Dreams, Fears, Idols” (158-60); “Social Life” (528-541)

“Woman’s Situation and Character” (597-628); “The Independent Woman” (679-685);

“Conclusion” (724-726)

Recommended: Nancy Bauer, “Beauvoir’s Heideggerian Ontology”

Phenomenology of/and Oppression

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, Intro (xiv-xvi), “Lived Experience of the Black Man”

Recommended: Dilan Mahendran, “*The Facticity of Blackness: A Non-conceptual Approach to the Study of Race and Racism in Fanon’s and Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology*”

Sandra Lee Bartky, “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”

Recommended: Iris Marion Young, “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment Motility and Spatiality”

Precursors and Progeny of Phenomenology and Existentialism

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science* (aphorisms 1, 4, 26, 108, 109, 125, 143, 193, 250, 283, 285, 290, 295, 307, 319, 335, 341, 343, 347, 374, 382)

David Foster Wallace, Kenyon College Commencement Speech

Optional readings to conclude the course...

Precursors of Phenomenology (and Existentialism)

Søren Kierkegaard, *The Present Age and of the Difference Between a Genius and an Apostle*

Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*

Kierkegaard, *The Concept of Anxiety*

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Leo Tolstoy, *The Death of Ivan Ilych*

Paul Edwards, "Existentialism and Death: A Survey of Some Confusions and Absurdities"

More Sartre

Emotion & Imagination (74-97)

Bad Faith (137-66)

The Being of Consciousness (167-81)

The Body (209-30)

Being and Doing (242-81)

More Beauvoir

Pyrrus and Cineas, "La Situation"

"Ambiguity and Freedom"

Stacy Keltner, "Beauvoir's Idea of Ambiguity"

Contemporary Philosophy of Mind, Action, and Cognitive Science

Hubert Dreyfus, "Standing up to Analytic Philosophy and AI at MIT in the Sixties"

Dreyfus, "Overcoming the Myth of the Mental: How Philosophers Can Profit from the Phenomenology of Everyday Expertise"

John McDowell, "What Myth?"

Erik Rietveld, "McDowell and Dreyfus on Unreflective Action"

Mind, Reason, and Being-in-the-World: The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate (ed. Joseph Schear)

Rietveld, "Situated Normativity: Normative Aspect of Embodied Cognition in Unreflective Action"

Representation, Normativity, and Unreflective Action

Ruth Millikan, "Pushmi-Pullyu Representations"

Michael Brownstein and Alex Madva, "The Normativity of Automaticity"

Peter Railton, "Normative Guidance"

Psychology and Phenomenology of Action

Anthony Marcel, "The Sense of Agency: Awareness and Ownership of Action"

Christopher Peacocke, "Action: Awareness, Ownership, and Knowledge"

Contemporary philosophy & psychology of temporal experience

Geoffrey Lee, "Temporal Experience and the Temporal Structure of Experience"

Carlos Montemayor, *Minding Time: A Philosophical and Theoretical Approach to the Psychology of Time*

Skillful Unreflective Action

Julia Annas, "The Phenomenology of Virtue"

Annas, "Practical Expertise"

Peter Railton, "Practical competence and fluent agency"

David Velleman, "The way of the wanton"

Michael Brownstein, "Rationalizing flow: agency in skilled unreflective action"

Knowing-How and Knowing-That

Gilbert Ryle, *The Concept of Mind*

Jason Stanley and Timothy Williamson, "Knowing How"

Alva Noë, "Against Intellectualism"

Influential accounts of the 1st-person perspective and authenticity in Anglo-American philosophy

Peter Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment"

Strawson, *Individuals: An Essay in Descriptive Metaphysics*, Chs.1-3 (*Bodies, Sounds, Persons*)

Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"

John Searle, *Intentionality: An Essay in the Philosophy of Mind*, "The Background"

Bernard Williams, "A Critique of Utilitarianism"

Harry Frankfurt, "The Importance of What We Care About"

Frankfurt, "Identification and Wholeheartedness"

B. Scot Rouse, "Receptivity and Care: Heidegger and Frankfurt on Human Identity"