

Phil 6140: Continental Theory I.

Instructor: John Russon, Mackinnon 338.

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:15-2:15, Wednesday 3:00-4:30.

Course Meets: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:20, Mackinnon 261

The core of our study will be the phenomenological philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty. We will read a good portion of his Phenomenology of Perception (1945), a book which engages in a rigorous description of the form of experience, and reveals our experience to be embodied, enworlded, and intersubjective. We will use the insights we develop from reading this book as a platform for reading Schelling's System of Transcendental Idealism (1800), a work that proceeds from Kant's "Critical" philosophy to develop a systematic vision of human experience. We will conclude with Derrida's Rogues (2003), as a way of drawing out some of the political import of the works of Merleau-Ponty and Schelling.

Schedule of Readings:

Meeting Dates: Reading:

Sept 14	Introduction
Sept 21	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Introduction, Chs 1-2
Sept 28	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Introduction, Chs 3-4
Oct 5	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Part I Chs 1-2
Oct 12	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Part I Chs 3-4
Oct 19	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Part I Ch 6
Oct 26	<u>Phenomenology of Perception</u> , Part II Ch 4
Nov 2	<u>System of Transcendental Idealism</u> , Part 4 (pp 155-214)
Nov 9	<u>System of Transcendental Idealism</u> , Part 4 (cont'd)
Nov 16	<u>System of Transcendental Idealism</u> , Pts 5-6, (pp 215-236)
Nov 23	<u>Rogues</u> , 1-3, pp 6-41
Nov 30	<u>Rogues</u> , 6-8, pp 63-94

Course Text:

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, The Phenomenology of Perception, (Routledge, 2003)

F.W.J. Schelling, System of Transcendental Idealism (1800), (U of Virginia, 1978)

Jacques Derrida, Rogues: Two Essays on Reason, (Stanford, 2003)

Assignments:

In addition to reading the assigned texts, attending class, and participating constructively and responsibly in class-discussion, you are required to do the following work:

Writing assignments:

10 weekly papers, each 1 single-spaced page in length, due at the beginning of each class, (except for the first week on Schelling, November 2). NB: These papers will be **one** (1) single-spaced page in length (standard 12-point font, standard margins)--no cover page, no footnotes, no staples, nothing more than the single page. The papers will be written in answer to a question given out in advance. They will be polished, scholarly pieces of philosophical writing, appropriate for the level of graduate studies. 10 papers @ 10% each = 100%

Reading assignments:

You must also read at least 6 of the scholarly articles I will make available (in a folder in the Philosophy Lounge). The study of these articles should contribute to your study of the texts, and reference to these articles should be made at appropriate points in your writing assignments.