Syllabus: Feminist Phenomenology  
Spring, 2018

PHIL 643/CRN 35763  
M/W 10:00-11:50  
250C SCH  
Dr. Bonnie Mann/Guest: Marzena Adamiak  
bmann@uoregon.edu  
Office Hrs: W 3:00-5:00pm

Course Description
A course on contemporary feminist phenomenology is necessarily taught in relation to the texts of Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, the first having inaugurated the practice and the second having been one of its most significant influences. In this course, you will see that the works of these two thinkers are not engaged at length, but this is not to say that they aren’t in the background of everything that is assigned, sometimes explicitly, sometimes implicitly. This course takes up works in contemporary feminist phenomenology, specifically thematizing the notion of “experience” as it is adopted, revised, deployed and criticized in feminist phenomenological works.

Texts
Individual essays and selections from texts will be available on the canvas site for the course. Full texts are available at the Duck Store for purchase. Please purchase these texts:
- Kruks, Retrieving Experience
- Heinämaa, Toward a Phenomenology of Sexual Difference
- Oksala, Feminist Experiences
- Ortega, In-Between

Learning Outcomes
Students should complete this course having acquired a strong working knowledge of 1) the area of feminist philosophy called feminist phenomenology, what its central commitments and contributions are to feminist philosophy more broadly, and how it challenges some commitments in canonical western philosophy 2) the central questions raised by a phenomenological approach to the notion of “experience” and how feminist phenomenologists have wrestled with this notion, and 3) several contemporary feminist phenomenologies that help to problematize or develop our understanding of “experience” as central to phenomenological practice.

Course Requirements and Grading
Students will be evaluated holistically based on: 1) An in-class presentation, as well as demonstrated high-level, in-depth preparation for each class session as evidenced in class participation. 2) Paper Proposal: All students will submit a 4-6 page paper proposal for their final paper project on Thursday of week 8 (strict deadline). Guidelines for the paper proposal will be handed out in class. 3) Final Paper: All students will write a 15 page (approximate length) final paper due on Wednesday of final’s week by 5pm.

Accommodations for Disability If you have a documented disability please see me at the beginning of the term so we can provide appropriate accommodations.
Statement on Academic Honesty
It is my practice to assign a grade of F for the course to students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty.

Course Calendar
Feminist Phenomenology General Introduction
Week 1
4/2 Class 1: Bonnie
Eva-Maria Simms and Beata Stawarska, “Concepts and Methods in Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology”

4/4 Class 2: Bonnie
Scott, Joan. “Experience”

Week 2:
4/9 Class 1: Bonnie
Stawarska “Subject and Structure in Feminist Phenomenology”
Mann “The Difference of Feminist Phenomenology”

Feminist Phenomenology: Problems and Possibilities
4/11 Class 2: Marzena

Week 3:
4/16 Class 1: Marzena

Works in Feminist Phenomenology
4/18 Class 2: Marzena
Kruks, Retrieving Experience – Introduction & Part I
Week 4
4/23 Class 1 Marzena
Kruks, Retrieving Experience – Part II

4/25 Class 2: Marzena
Kruks, Retrieving Experience – Part III

Week 5:
4/30 Class 1: Marzena
Heinämäa: Toward a Phenomenology of Sexual Difference- Introduction – Chapter 2

5/2 Class 2: Marzena
Heinämäa: Toward a Phenomenology of Sexual Difference – Chapter 3 – Chapter 4

Week 6
5/7 Class 1: Marzena
Heinämäa, Toward a Phenomenology of Sexual Difference- Chapters 5 – Chapter 6

5/9 Class 2: Bonnie
Oksala Feminist Experiences- Introduction and Part I

Week 7
5/14 Class 1: Bonnie
Oksala, Feminist Experiences- Part II

5/16 Class 2
Oksala, Feminist Experiences- Part III

Week 8:
5/21 Class 1: Bonnie
Ahmed, Cultural Politics of Emotion - Introduction – Chapter 3

5/23 Class 2: Bonnie
Ahmed, Cultural Politics of Emotion – Chapters 4-6

Week 9
5/28 Class 1 Memorial Day, No Class

5/30 Class 2: Bonnie
Ahmed, Cultural Politics of Emotion – Chapters 7 - Afterward
Ortega, In-Between - Introduction, Chs. 1 and 2
Week 10:
6/4 Class 1: Bonnie
Ortega, *In-Between* Chs. 3 and 4

6/6 Class 2: Bonnie
Ortega, *In-Between* Chs. 5-7

**Recommended Texts (this list can continue to grow as the term goes on)**
Everything by Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty
Robert Sokolowski, *Introduction to Phenomenology*
Dermot Moran, *Introduction to Phenomenology*
David West: *Continental Philosophy: An Introduction*
Toril Moi, *What is a Woman*
Iris Young, *On Female Body Experience*
Sandra Bartky, *Femininity and Domination*
Bonnie Mann, *Sovereign Masculinity*
Lisa Guenther, *Solitary Confinement*
Silvia Stöller and Veronica Vasterling, *Feministische Phänomenologie und Hermeneutik*
Eva Simms and Beata Stawarska, Special Issue of *Janus Head, Feminist Phenomenology*, vol. 13, 1, spring 2014.
Alia Al-Saji, “Bodies and Sensings: On the Uses of Husserlian Phenomenology for Feminist Theory”
Christina Schües, Dorothea Olkowski, Helen Fielding (eds.) *Time in Feminist Phenomenology*;
Secondary Readings on Young:
- Sandra Bartky, “Iris Young and the Gendering of Phenomenology”
- Bonnie Mann, “Between Phenomenology and Structural Injustice”