

Syllabus: Feminist Phenomenology & French Materialist Feminism Spring, 2020

PHIL 643/CRN 36119
M/W 12:00-1:50
250C SCH

Dr. Bonnie Mann
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Office Hrs: F 2-4PM

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. This time around, I am teaching feminist phenomenology in relation to French materialist feminist thought. The reason for this is that critical feminist phenomenology must engage *material* relations. Even as critical phenomenology more broadly often draws on Marxism and critical theory, it is important for critical feminist phenomenology that feminist materialist philosophy be engaged. It is a frustration to me that the tradition of feminist materialist thought that is critical of the Marxist tradition is mostly forgotten today. This class is an effort to address that problem, recuperate that tradition, and see what it might add to the practice of feminist phenomenology.

Texts

Articles and Book Chapter: Available on Canvas

Full texts should be acquired on your own.

- *Delphy: *Close to Home: A Materialist Analysis of Women's Oppression: 2016 Edition* (220 pages)
- *Guillaumin: *Racism, Sexism, Power and Ideology* (300)
- Mies: *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: 2014 Edition* (235)
- *Wittig: *The Straight Mind and Other Essays*
- *Bartky: *Femininity and Domination* (156 pages)
- Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology*
- Guenther, *Solitary Confinement: Social Death and Its Afterlives*
- 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) *Two in-class presentations*, 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 4-5 page paper proposal for their final paper project on Thursday of week 8 (strict deadline). Guidelines for the paper proposal will be provided. 3) *Final Paper*: All students will write a 10-15 page 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.*

Discrimination and sexual harassment:

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

According to the new Title IX policy (<https://titleix.uoregon.edu/employee-reporting-responsibilities-policy-overview>) only some UO employees are required reporters and they have to state this explicitly to you. Most regular faculty members as well as GEs are classified as “student-directed employees,” i.e. they are not mandatory reporters, which means that you can speak with them confidentially about issues of sexual harassment, although they may be required to give testimony in case of litigations. If you wish to speak to someone who can keep strict confidentially (also in case of litigations), you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO’s 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

Resources for people experiencing hate and discrimination can be found also on the following website: RESPECT.uoregon.edu and by calling 541-346-5555.

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 and Critical Phenomenology General Introduction

3/30: Week 1: Class #1 Framing Essays

- *Silvia Stöller: "What is Feminist Phenomenology?" (15)
- *Linda Fisher. "Phenomenology and Feminism: Perspectives and their Relation." (22)
- *Sara Heinämaa, "A Phenomenology of Sexual Difference: Types, Styles and Persons" (22)

4/1: Week 1: Class #2 Framing Essays

- *Helen Fielding: "A Feminist Phenomenology Manifesto" (11)
- *Eva-Maria Simms and Beata Stawarska, "Concepts and Methods in Interdisciplinary Feminist Phenomenology" (15)
- *Al-Saji, "Bodies and Sensings" (23)
- *Sara Ahmed, "Feminism is Sensational" (20)

Week 2:

4/6: Week 2: Class #1 Framing Essays

- *Oksala, "What is Feminist Philosophy?" (14)
- *Ferrari, et. al., "Editor's Introduction" (5)
- *Salamon, "What's Critical about Critical Phenomenology" (9)
- [ordered]** Stawarska "Subject and Structure in Feminist Phenomenology" (14)
- *Bonnie Mann, "The Difference of Feminist Phenomenology: The Case of Shame" (30)

4/8: Week 2: Class #2: Delphy (*through page 77*)

Week 3:

4/13: Week 3: Class #1: Delphy (*through page 137*)

4/15: Week 3: Class #2: Delphy (*through end*)

Week 4

4/20: Week 4: Class #1: Guillaumin (*Preface, Introduction, Chapters. 1, 2*)

4/22: Week 4: Class #2: Guillaumin (*Chapters 6, 9, 10*)

Week 5:

4/27: Week 5: Class #1: Mies (*Foreward, Preface, Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch. 2.*)

4/29: Week 5: Class #2: Mies (*Ch. 4, Ch. 5*)

Week 6

5/4: Week 6: Class #1: Mies (*Ch. 7*); Wittig (*Forward, Preface, The Category of Sex, On the Social Contract*)

5/6: Week 6: Class #2 Wittig (*Homo Sum, The Mark of Gender*); Bartky (*Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch. 3, Ch. 7*)

Week 7

5/11: Week 7: Class #1 Ahmed (*through Ch. 1*)

5/13: Week 7: Class #2 Ahmed (*through Ch. 3*)

Week 8:

5/18: Week 8: Class #1 Ahmed (*through the end*)

5/20: Week 8: Class #2 Guenther (*Part I*)

FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

Week 9

5/25: Week 9: Class #1 Memorial Day, No Class but read Guenther (*Part II*)

5/27: Week 9: Class #2 Guenther (*Part III*)

Week 10:

6/1: Week 10: Class #1 Ortega (*Introduction, Ch. 1 and 2*)

6/3: Week 10: Class #2 Ortega (*Ch. 5, 6, 7 + Afterward*)

6/10

Final Paper Due

Recommended Texts (this list can continue to grow as the term goes on)

Everything by Simone de Beauvoir and Maurice Merleau-Ponty

- Ahmed, *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*
- Ahmed, *What's the Use?*
- Alcoff, Linda. *Visible Identities*. Oxford, 2006.
- Cohen Shabot, Sara & Christinia Landry. *Rethinking Feminist Phenomenology*
- Das Jannsen *Phenomenal Gender*
- Fielding, Helen & Dorothea Olkowski. *Feminist Phenomenology Futures*
- Guenther, Lisa. *Solitary Confinement*
- Heinämaa, Sara. *Toward a Phenomenology of Sexual Difference*
- Kruks, Sonia. *Retrieving Experience*
- Lee, Emily (ed.). *Living Alterities: Phenomenology, Embodiment, and Race*. State University of New York Press. (2014)
- Mann, Bonnie. *Sovereign Masculinity: Gender Lessons from the War on Terror*
- Moi, Toril. *What is a Woman?*
- Moran, Dermot. *Introduction to Phenomenology*
- Oksala, Johanna. *Feminist Experiences*
- PUNCTA: Both Issues
- Salamon, *The Life and Death of Latisha King*
- Schües, Christina, Dorothea Olkowski, Helen Fielding (eds.) *Time in Feminist Phenomenology*
- Simms, Eva and Beata Stawarska, Special Issue of *Janus Head, Feminist Phenomenology*, vol. 13, 1, spring 2014.
- Sokolowski, Robert. *Introduction to Phenomenology*
- Stöller, Sylvia. and Veronica Vasterling, *Feministische Phänomenologie und Hermeneutik*
- Weiss, Gail, Ann Murphy and Gayle Salamon, eds. *50 Concepts for a Critical Phenomenology*
- West, David. *Continental Philosophy: An Introduction*
- Young, Iris. *On Female Body Experience*
- Young: Secondary Readings: Sandra Bartky, "Iris Young and the Gendering of Phenomenology"; Bonnie Mann, "Between Phenomenology and Structural Injustice"