



## Guided Studies in Western Philosophical Classics: - Merleau-Ponty's *Phenomenology of Perception* and other readings

(Dr. Tze-wan Kwan)

Course Code: PHI 2302  
Venue: UCC 201  
Time: Wed 08-10

### **Course description:**

This course undertakes an intensive reading as well as cross-disciplinary analysis of Merleau-Ponty's monumental work *Phenomenology of Perception*. In the first few weeks, the course will start with introductory lectures in which the main objectives and major conceptual distinctions of the work are discussed. Special emphasis will be put on the question how Merleau-Ponty's work fits in to the scenario of the phenomenological movement as a whole. Special emphasis will also be made on how Merleau-Ponty's work might bear on some fundamental issues of phenomenon of language and script. Classes will then be held in the form of a seminar. The text of *Phenomenology of Perception* will be excerpted and divided in to several major clusters and assigned to participants, who are expected to make active contribution through presentation (in groups) and discussion of assigned passages of the text. Besides Merleau-Ponty's main text as captioned, excerpts from his early (*The Structure of Behavior*) and later work as well as short excerpts from the works of Husserl (*Logical Investigations*, No. 4) and of Heidegger (*Being and Time*) will also be included to facilitate comparison and discussion. Finally, in view of some new interpretative attempts of the instructor, basic works of traditional Chinese paleography will also be covered and discussed. Toward the end of the semester, a paper on a topic previously agreed upon is required. Assessment will be made on the quality of textual presentation, on the readiness for discussion in class as well as on the final paper.

### **Main Text:**

- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, (trans.) Donald A. Landes (London: Routledge, 2012).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, (trans.) Colin Smith (London: Routledge, 1962, 1976).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Structure of Behavior* (trans.) Alden L. Fisher and with a foreword by John Wild (Boston: Beacon Press, 1963).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Primacy of Perception* (ed.) James M. Edie (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1964).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Signs* (trans.) Richard McCleary (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1964).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *In Praise of Philosophy and Other Essays* (trans.) John wild, James Edie, and John O'Neill (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1970).
- Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Basic Writings* (ed.) Thomas Baldwin (London: Routledge, 2004).

### **Other Related Texts:**

- Heidegger, Martin, *Being and Time* (trans.) John Macquarrie & Edward Robinson (New York: SCM Press, 1962).
- Husserl, Edmund, *Logical Investigations*, (trans.) J.N. Findlay (London: Routledge, 1970).
- 許慎：《說文解字》，徐鉉校，附音序/筆畫檢字，(北京：中華書局，2013年)。

### **Other Readings related to topic:**

1. Kevin A. Aho, “The Missing Dialogue between Heidegger and Merleau-Ponty: On the Importance of the *Zollikon Seminars*”, *Body & Society*, Vol. 11 (2), pp. 1-23.
2. Apel, Karl-Otto, *Die Idee der Sprache in der Tradition des Humanismus von Dante bis Vico*. 3. Auflage (Bonn: Bouvier, 1980).
3. Apel, Karl-Otto, “Noam Chomsky's Theory of Language and Contemporary Philosophy: A Case Study in the Philosophy of Science,” *Towards a Transformation of Philosophy*, translated by G. Adey and D. Frisby (London: Routledge, 1980), pp.180-224.
4. Aristotle: *On Interpretation*.
5. Émile Benveniste, *Problems in General Linguistics* (trans.) Mary Elizabeth Meek (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1973).
6. Bühler, Karl (1930), *Sprachtheorie*. English: *Theory of language: the Representational Function of Language*; translated by Donald Fraser Goodwin (Amsterdam ; Philadelphia : J. Benjamins Pub. Co., 1990).
7. Taylor Carman, “The Body in Husserl and Merleau-Ponty” *Philosophical Topics*, Vol. 27, Nr. 2, 1999, pp. 205-226.
8. Edward S. Casey, *Remembering. A Phenomenological Study*, second edition (Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1987, 2000), especially chapter on body memory.
9. Steven Galt Crowell, *Husserl, Heidegger, and the Space of Meaning: Paths toward Transcendental Phenomenology* (Evanston: Northwestern U. Press, 2001).
10. Nicholas Gier, *Wittgenstein and Phenomenology: A Comparative Study of the Later Wittgenstein , Husserl, Heidegger, and Merleau-Ponty* (Albany: SUNY Press, 1981).
11. Wai-Shun Hung, “ ‘No Recipe for the Visible’ The Theory of Linear Perspective in Merleau-Ponty’s ‘Eye and Mind’”, *Philosophy Today*, De Paul University, Fall 2013, pp. 295-302.
12. George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, *Philosophy in the Flesh: the Embodied Mind & its Challenge to Western Thought* (New York: Basic Books, 1999).
13. Monika Langer, *Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception : a Guide and Commentary* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1989).
14. Erwin Panofsky, *Die Perspektive als symbolische Form*, in *Vorträge der Bibliothek Warburg*, 4 (1924-25).
15. Mathias Obert, „Leibliche Mimesis in der Kunsttheorie zwischen China und dem Abendland“, *Allgemeine Zeitschrift für Philosophie*, Heft 39.3/2014, pp. 251-279.
16. Christian Puech, “Merleau-Ponty. La langue, le sujet et l’institué : la linguistique dans la philosophie”, *Langages*, Année 1985, Volume 19, Numéro 77, pp. 21-32.
17. Jack Reynolds, *Merleau-Ponty and Derrida: Intertwinling Embodiment and Alterity* (Athens: Ohio UP, 2004).

18. Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*, (trans.) Wade Baskin (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972).
19. Bernhard Waldenfels, "Gedenken an Maurice Merleau-Ponty", *Zeitschrift für philosophische Forschung*, 15 (1962), pp. 406-413.
20. Bernhard Waldenfels, "Das Problem der Leiblichkeit bei Merleau-Ponty", *Philosophisches Jahrbuch*, 75 (1968), pp. 347-365.
21. Bernhard Waldenfels, "Die Offenheit sprachlicher Strukturen bei Merleau-Ponty", *Internationales Jahrbuch für Religionssoziologie*, Band 9 (1975), pp. 91-104.
22. Bernhard Waldenfels, "Phänomen und Struktur bei Merleau-Ponty", in *Phänomenologische Forschung*, Band 9, Neuere Entwicklungen des Phänomenbegriffs (Freiburg/München: Alber, 1980), pp. 184-211. English version: „Perception and Structure in Merleau-Ponty“, *Research in Phenomenology*, Vol. 10 (1980), pp. 21-38, Vol. 10 (1980), pp. 21-38
23. Bernhard Waldenfels, *Phänomenologie in Frankreich* (Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp, 1983, 1987).
24. Bernhard Waldenfels, *Das leibliche Selbst* (Frankfurt/M: Suhrkamp, 2000).
25. Richard Zaner, *The Problem of Embodiment: Some Contributions to a Philosophy of the Body* (The Hague: Nijhoff, 1964).
26. Tze-wan Kwan, "Phenomenological Interpretation of the 'Six Ways' of Chinese Script Formation", in: *Visualizing Knowledge in Signs: Encoding Meanings in Logographic and Logophonetic Writing Systems*, Vol. 23, *Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderen Orient* (BBVO), (Berlin: Pe-We-Verlag, 2014), pp. 157-202.
27. Tze-wan Kwan, „Die vierfache Wurzel des Gedankens von ‚sein‘ in der chinesischen Sprache und Schrift“, invited lecture at the colloquium „Sprachen des Denkens-Denken in Sprachen“, XXIII. Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie, 28 Sept. - 2 Oct., Münster, Germany. Forthcoming in *Deutsches Jahrbuch Philosophie*, Hamburg: Felix Meiner, 2016.
28. Tze-wan Kwan, "Bodily Dasein and Chinese Script Components: Uncovering Some Husserlian/Merleau-Pontian Connections", to be published.
29. 黃冠閔：〈觸覺中的身體主體性—梅洛龐蒂與昂希〉，《臺大文史哲學報》，第71期 (2009)，pp. 49-102.
30. 宋灝 (Mathias Obert)：〈華語思維與文字動勢〉，《漢學研究》，33卷2期，2015年6月，pp. 103-132.
31. 關子尹：〈漢字六書學說的現象學詮釋〉，《漢學研究》，33卷2期，2015年6月，pp. 49-102.