PHI 505 Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology of Perception*
Class Number 57506, 3.0 Credits

**Time/Location**
Thursdays 1:00-4:00pm
Harriman Hall 249

**Instructor**
Gabrielle Benette Jackson
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Office Location: Harriman Hall 203
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1pm-3pm or by appointment

**Course Topic**
“*The basic course will investigate some of the most important and influential theories of art in the West from Plato to the present. Readings and discussion in depth of major figures will make up the content of the course: e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Collingwood, Langer, Merleau-Ponty, Dufrenne. The focus throughout will be on central issues in aesthetics such as imitation, truth, beauty, expression, emotion, and imagination.*”

In this seminar, we will read a classic text of phenomenology, Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s *Phenomenology of Perception*. The focus of our investigation will be on the content of perceptual experience, the structure of motor intentionality, and their relation in ordinary life.

**Required Texts**
1. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, translated by Donald Landes
2. Any supplemental readings will be available for download via Blackboard

**Course Requirements**
- **Readings**: Reading assignments all require concentrated study. It is important that they be completed no later than the dates listed on the syllabus.
- **Attendance/Participation**: Attendance will be taken and participation will be noted.
- **Presentation**: At least once during the semester, each participant is required to present content of the week’s readings to the seminar.
- **Term Paper**: There will be a term paper for this course constituting the majority of your grade. You must submit a term paper to pass this course
- **Make-Up Policy**: Make-ups may be granted in exceptional circumstances.
**Grading Guidelines**

Attendance/Participation ~10%
Presentation ~10%
Term Paper ~80%

**Class Protocol**

- **Electronic Equipment:** I allow the use of electronic devices (e.g., laptops, tablets) for note taking purposes only, provided they do not disrupt the class. Recording devices are not allowed, unless deemed necessary and appropriate due to disability or other special circumstances.
- Discussion is encouraged. Participants should be especially sensitive to and respectful of others.
- I reserve the right to make reasonable alterations to the syllabus during the semester.
- I will do my best to reply to legitimate email inquiries within 48 hours of their receipt, unless they are sent over the weekend or while I am traveling.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The humanities study the history of the human condition, human thought and values, and consider the ways in which those ideas have and will continue to shape our lives. We will work on the development of skills required to understand, analyze and generate ideas in post-graduate academic philosophy. This will include critical thinking, group discussions, reading technical texts, presentations, and writing technical philosophy.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. This includes misuse of Clickers.
more information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at: http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary.

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.