Course description:
This course will focus on 20th Century French Phenomenology. Our main themes will be embodiment, freedom, and relations of self and other. We will consider how freedom and self-other relations are affected by different conceptualizations of body, sexuality, gender, art, and language. After studying Jean-Paul Sartre’s phenomenological existentialism in *Being and Nothingness*, we will read selections from Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex, The Ethics of Ambiguity*, and *Pyrrhus and Cinéas* to see how an emphasis on situatedness changes one’s conception of freedom. We will then turn to phenomenology reinterpreted by Maurice Merleau-Ponty in his works *The Phenomenology of Perception, The Primacy of Perception*, and some late writings. We will consider how some contemporary feminists use Beauvoir’s and Merleau-Ponty’s analyses of embodiment to analyze gender. Because there are no sections for this course, students are encouraged to participate in class discussion and to attend office hours, either individually or in pairs/groups.

**Required texts:** available at The Literary Guillotine Locust Street, downtown SC
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Vintage, new 2010 translation)
Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness* (Washington Square)
Other required readings in class reader *(R)*, also available at The Guillotine

**Requirements**
Regular attendance; participation in class discussion encouraged, to be noted in final evaluation.
Written work:
Inclass exam on Sartre Monday, January 30.
Four-five-page paper on Simone de Beauvoir due in class Wednesday Feb. 22.

*Late paper policy:* one grade reduction for each 24-hour period paper is late.
Final exam emphasizing Merleau-Ponty Tuesday Mar. 20, 4 – 7p.m. OR a six-page paper on Merleau-Ponty, due no later than Tuesday, Mar. 20, 4p.m. in the exam classroom. IF your paper is not handed in by that time, you *must* take the final exam (thus the late paper policy does not hold in this case).

*N.B.* Each component of the course must be completed to pass the course.

**Office hours:** Cowell Annex 105, Mondays 2 – 3p.m., and by appointment
E-mail: [jbhoy@ucsc.edu](mailto:jbhoy@ucsc.edu)

**Schedule of readings and assignments:**

**Week One:**  
**Jean-Paul Sartre:**  
**Jan. 9**  
*Introductory meeting:* Background
Introduction of Sartrean concepts

**Jan. 11**  
*Being and Nothingness (BN):* I, Ch. 1. “The Origin of Nothingness,” 55 – 85.
Jan. 13  


Week Two:  

Sartre:  

Jan. 16  

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Jan. 18  


Jan. 20  

BN, III, Ch. 2 “The Body,” 400-470

Week Three:  

Sartre:  

Jan. 23  

BN, III, Ch. 3 “Concrete Relations with Others”  


II. “Indifference, Sexual Desire, Hate and Sadism,” esp. 494 – 518

Jan. 25  

BN, IV, Ch. 1 “Freedom: The First Condition of Action,” 559 – 619

Jan. 27  

BN, IV, Ch. 1. “Freedom and Responsibility,” 707 – 711; 784  

BN, Conclusion: “Ethical Implications” emphasize 795 – 798.

Week Four:  

From Sartre to Simone de Beauvoir:  

Jan. 30  

Sartre exam in class.

Feb. 1  

Lecture introducing Simone de Beauvoir.  

Introduction to the Ethics of Ambiguity (R)  

Pyrrhus and Cinéas (R)

Feb. 3  

Pyrrhus and Cinéas  

Debra Bergoffen, “Introduction” to PC (eCommons)

Week Five:  

Beauvoir:  

Feb. 6  

Pyrrhus and Cinéas, critical review, esp. pp. 126 – 141

Feb. 8  

Introduction to The Second Sex (TSS)  

TSS, Ch. 1, Biology, pp. 44 – 48  

Beauvoir’s review of Merleau-Ponty’s Phenomenology of Perception (R)

Feb. 10  

TSS, Ch. 17, “The Mother”

Week Six:  

Beauvoir:  

Feb. 13  

TSS, Ch. 23, “The Woman in Love”

Feb. 15  

TSS Ch. 25, “The Independent Woman”
Feb. 17  
TSS, “Conclusion.” Review and critical discussion. 
Judith Butler, “Sex and Gender in Simone de Beauvoir’s Second Sex” (R)

Week Seven:  Maurice Merleau-Ponty
Feb. 20  Presidents’ Day Holiday

Feb. 22  
*Simone de Beauvoir papers dues in class*
Merleau-Ponty, “The Primacy of Perception and Its Philosophical Consequences” from *The Merleau-Ponty Reader* pp. 89 – 103 (R) 
Preface to *the Phenomenology of Perception (PP)*, in BW pp. 62 – 78.

Feb. 24  
“The World as Perceived,” from Part Two of *The Phenomenology of Perception (PP)* in BW 126 – 144

Week Eight:  Merleau-Ponty:
Feb. 27  “Other Selves and the Human World,” Ch. 4 of Part Two of *PP*, in BW 145 – 165.


Mar.  2  “Freedom,” from Ch. 3 of Part Three of *PP* in BW 209 – 233

Week Nine:  Merleau-Ponty:
Mar.  5  Review “Freedom,” and other chapters, above 
Merleau-Ponty’s “Prospectus of His Work” in BW 33 – 42

Mar.  7  Slide show on Cézanne in class 

Mar.  9  *Cézanne’s Doubt*, in BW 272 – 289.

Week Ten:  Merleau-Ponty
Mar. 12  *Eye and Mind*, in BW 290 – 324

Mar. 14  Phenomenology and Beyond: lecture and discussion

Mar. 16  Course critique and review.

Finals Week:
Mar. 20  **FINAL EXAM, 4 – 7p.m.** Emphasis on Merleau-Ponty, but in relation to 
Sartre and Beauvoir as well. 
Those doing a Merleau-Ponty paper in lieu of the exam MUST hand in the paper by 4p.m. *OR* take the exam. No exceptions!
20TH CENTURY FRENCH PHILOSOPHERS AND INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENTS – J. Hoy

Background: Hegel, Husserl, Heidegger - “the so-called three H’s”--dominated 1933 - 1960
Alexandre Kojève (1902-68)--lectures on Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit (1933-39), published in 1947 as Introduction to the Reading of Hegel’s Phenomenology: a Marxist reading
Jean Wahl, The Unhappy Consciousness in Hegel (1929): being-for-itself<-->being-in-itself
Jean Hyppolite, translation and 2-volume commentary on Hegel’s Phenomenology (1941)

Period from late 1930s to 1960: EXISTENTIAL PHENOMENOLOGY
Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973)--Catholic Existentialist, Being and Having (’35), 30 plays
Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) – Nausea (38), Being and Nothingness (43),
Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1961)--Phenomenology of Perception (45);
Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) – The Second Sex (49), The Ethics of Ambiguity (47), novels and autobiography
“The Other”: Emmanuel Lévinas (1906-95): Totality and Infinity (61), Otherwise than Being (74)

Increasing influence of (later) Heidegger, (later) Marx, Freud and Nietzsche
→”Hermeneutics of suspicion” “The Linguistic Turn”

Hermeneutics: Paul Ricoeur (1913-2005) Time and Narrative (83-5)

1960 – 68: STRUCTURALISM: comparatist scientific method looking for universal structures:
in linguistics, or semiology, as the study of the anti-representationalist view of signs – Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), Course in General Linguistics,(59)

Neo-Marxist Structuralist: Louis Althusser (1918 – 90) “theoretical anti-humanism”

Structuralist psychoanalysis:
Jacques Lacan (1901-81)--the unconscious structured like a language=system of signs, the Symbolic
Julia Kristeva (1941- ): notion of the semiotic aspect of language as place of unconscious drives

Structuralist literary criticism: Roland Barthes (1915-80) limits of structuralist analysis;

POST-STRUCTURALISMS: Philosophies of ‘Difference’
Michel Foucault (1926-1984): archaeology of knowledge (60-68); genealogy of power (68-77) and
of ethics (77-84)
Jacques Derrida (1930-2004)—Deconstruction; Of Grammatology 67), etc...
Gilles Deleuze (1925–95) – to be is to be different, even from oneself; Difference and Repetition (68)

“New French Feminists”:
Luce Irigaray (1930 - ), An Ethics of Sexual Difference(84); This Sex which Is Not One (77)
Julia Kristeva, Revolution in Poetic Language (74)

Some general sources:
Gary Gutting, French Philosophy in the Twentieth Century (Cambridge U Press, 2001)
Alan Schrift, Twentieth Century French Philosophy: Key Themes & Thinkers (Blackwell)
Revaluing French Feminism, ed. N. Fraser & S. Bartky (Indiana U press, 1992)