Instructor: Helen Fielding (Philosophy/Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies)
Class time: Friday, 10:00am -1:00 pm
Offices: STvH 2157A and LH 3237
Phone 519-661-2111 x 84548
Email: hfieldin@uwo.ca
Office Hours: TBA or by Appointment

Land Acknowledgement:
I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Neutral peoples, on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This place continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are recognized as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to society.

Course Description:
Phenomenology is the study of appearances, the figure against the ground. The world as it appears is ambiguous, indeterminate and open to wonder, and phenomenologists seek to describe it as it comes into appearance in lived experience. Critical phenomenology investigates not only the structures that shape lived experience and the ways we encounter the world, it also critically questions those structures that support appearances. These structures such as heteronormativity, racialization, colonialism, patriarchy and normativity do not generally come into appearance in themselves. But they nonetheless shape relations between people, world, and environment. Our body schemas, along with the social, cultural and institutional structures shape and condition how we experience and understand our everyday experiences and relations. But they are open to change. Critical phenomenology seeks not only to describe and understand the world we live but also to transform it. Intersecting with feminist and Indigenous philosophy, as well as critical race theory, queer theory and critical disability studies, this course will take up critical phenomenological works alongside excerpts from the classical phenomenologists they draw on.

Course Objectives
This course will enable students to:
• Develop an understanding of critical phenomenology in the context of phenomenological theorizing
• Understand and apply a critical phenomenological approach
• Recognize some ethical and political issues raised by critical phenomenologists
• Develop critical thinking and writing skills
Course Materials

- Copies of articles will be made available through OWL or through Weldon library.
- Recommended Text: *50 Concepts for a Critical* *Phenomenology*, eds. Gail Weiss, Ann V. Murphy, Gayle Salamon, Northwestern University Press, 2019 (available for complete download through Weldon library). 

Evaluation

Phenomenological analysis (Essay 1) 25% (5-7 pages) due Feb. 18
Final Essay 40% (12-15 pages) due April 25
Participation 15%
Conference presentation 20% (April 8)

Short essay: Students will provide a phenomenological description. This description may be drawn on for the final essay.

Final essay and Conference Presentation: Students will develop a critical phenomenological theme that focuses on their individual areas of interest in consultation with the instructor—this theme will be presented to classmates on April 8. Students will present on their theme for 10 minutes and there will be 5 minutes for discussion of each paper. It will then form the basis of the final essay.

Participation: participation will be assessed in terms of having read the text, participating in and leading small group discussion, and making appropriate contributions to conversation. Each student will be expected to lead their small group in discussion and report back to the class at least twice throughout the semester depending on class size. Class attendance is mandatory.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_underrgrad.pdf
Essays will be submitted through OWL.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the
commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the
detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as
source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of
papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the
licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and

A Note on Course Content
In this course we will be dealing with themes that affect each of us differentially at a
personal, social and intellectual level. While full discussion of the issues is encouraged –
please be respectful of others—which can mean being willing to question your own
perspectives. Hatred and intolerance (including racist, trans phobic, homophobic,
ableist perspectives) will not be tolerated. Let’s all be open and willing to learn from one
another which might mean that on any given day you might be in a place where it is
appropriate to do more listening than speaking. If you find the material is causing you
distress, please let me know—I can also help you to find appropriate support if required.

Support Services
Registrarial Services http://www.registrar.uwo.ca
Student Support Services https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login
Services provided by the USC http://westernusc.ca/services/
Student Development Centre http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to
obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030
(during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Schedule

January 14  Introduction:  What is Critical Phenomenology?

January 21  On Being Human
1. Sylvia Wynter and Katherine McKittrick, Unparalleled Catastrophe for
   Our Species? Or, to Give Humanness a Different Future: Conversations”,
   through the library.

Recommended Readings
2. Sylvia Wynter, “Unsettling the Coloniality of
   Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its


5. Other essays in On Being Human as Praxis

January 28 Colonial Temporality


Recommended Readings


7. Other essays in Fanon, Phenomenology and Psychology (available for download from Weldon).

February 4 Ideological thinking


February 11 Lived Space


Recommended Reading


February 18 Dialogues with Indigenous Philosophies


**February 25 (Reading Week)**

**March 4 Early critique of Classical Phenomenology**

**March 11 Cultivating Perception**

**Recommended Readings**

**March 18 Questioning Philosophy from the Perspective of Everyday Lived Experience**

**March 25 The Body Schema as Intersection of the social, lived experience and essencing of the Self**

**Recommended Readings**
April 1  Non-Normate Bodies

Recommended Reading

April 8  Conference Day (9:30-1:30)

Note: This Outline is Subject to Change before the Course Begins.