Course Description:
In this course we will trace some of the earlier roots of feminist phenomenology as well as place the movement within its contemporary dynamic emerging. We will draw upon a number of new publications in this area. This will mean situating this intellectual movement in relation to the poststructuralist feminist tradition with which it is allied, and material feminism with which it critically intersects. We will also consider the ways in which such intersections as sexuality, race and disability shape lived experience. Ultimately, we will critically explore how feminist phenomenology can open up an interrelational ontology, offering not only the account of embodied experience for which it is usually recognized, but also the ways in which embodied perception underlies the production of knowledge and grounds politics and ethics.

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

Course Materials
- Copies of articles will be made available, and are also available through the library.

Evaluation
- Short essay: 25% (6-8 pages) due Feb. 16
- Final Essay: 40% (12-15 pages) due April 27
- Participation: 15%
- Conference presentation: 20% (April 13, 9am-2pm)

**Short essay:** Students will provide a contextualized phenomenological description or a textual analysis. This essay may be drawn on for the final essay.
**Final essay and Conference Presentation:** Students will develop a feminist phenomenological theme that focuses on their individual areas of interest in consultation with the instructor—this theme will be presented as a conference presentation April 13th. 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:**
Two times during the semester each student will lead a small group of 3 or 4 students to come up with a question from the day’s material to bring back to the group to discuss. The student will be prepared to briefly introduce the question in context to the class. Students will be graded on leading the small group, and on participation in the small groups across the semester. This entails keeping up with the readings each week.

**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_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Essays will be submitted through turnitin.com

**Support Services**
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Statement of Recognition**
“Western University is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenausaune, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.”

**Schedule**
January 12  Introduction: What is Feminist Phenomenology

January 19  Methodological Considerations I: describing experience

January 26  Methodological Considerations II: embodiment, flesh, relational transformations

February 2  Queering the Habit Body
   Recommended Readings: Merleau-Ponty, space chapter, Merleau-Ponty on Motility.

February 9  Rethinking Agency

February 16  Normativity

February 23  (Reading Week)

March 2  Artworks: Perceiving and Thinking

March 9  Formal Class cancelled (Group work to be arranged for Ortega’s text)

March 16  Multiplicitous Selves
Mariana Ortega, In-Between: Latina Feminist Phenomenology  
Guest visitor: Mariana Ortega

March 23  Disclosure of Being
3. Simone de Beauvoir, excerpt from Ethics of Ambiguity

March 30  (Good Friday—no class)

April 6  Rethinking Ontology

April 13  Conference Day
9am-2pm
Some Recommended Readings
Collections and monographs:


Stoller, Silvia, ed. Simone de Beauvoir’s Philosophy of Age: Gender, Ethics and Time. Berlin de Gruyter, 2014.


And of course works by Frantz Fanon, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Martin Heidegger etc.