

# **PH-4443: The Phenomenology of Embodiment**

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

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Spring 2020

Fr. Justin Gable, O.P., Ph.D.

Tuesdays, 12:40-3:30 PM

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## **Course Description and Objectives:**

Since the time of Descartes, modern philosophy has struggled to explain the relationship between the human mind and body, and more generally, between the material and the spiritual. Analytic Philosophy of Mind has proposed a number of possible solutions to the mind-body problem: substance dualism, property dualism, and various forms of materialism. But problems and paradoxes with these accounts have persisted, leading a number of philosophers and scientists to suggest that a new, more adequate understanding of both mind and body is needed. Meanwhile, promising insights into the human mind and body have arisen from disciplines and methods outside the Anglo-Analytic tradition: Embodied cognitive science and phenomenological analyses of embodied experience have provided a deepening appreciation of how the body shapes perception, cognition, self-identity, practical intentionality, and our relationships with others; Aristotelian-Thomistic Hylomorphism has also been re-discovered as a philosophical alternative to the standard post-Cartesian understanding of the body, allowing for a richer, more intimate integration of mental and bodily capacities.

This course will examine these alternative approaches to embodiment in detail, using phenomenological methodology as a central touchstone. We will begin by briefly examining the Cartesian context of the terms of the mind-body problem, and the standard dualistic and monistic solutions which emerge from it. We will then turn to key texts from the phenomenological and Thomistic traditions, paired with investigations from embodied cognitive science, to explore alternative ways of thinking about both the mind and body, and to

carefully analyze pervasive aspects of embodied experience: perception, affectivity and emotion, intersubjectivity, and self-identity. This course, an advanced seminar for M.A. and Ph.D. students, will include a review of foundational phenomenological concepts, as well as key principles of the Aristotelian-Thomistic tradition. Thus, while a certain familiarity with the history of philosophy on the part of the student is presumed, no prior coursework in phenomenology or Thomistic philosophy is required.

By the end of the semester, students will have gained a deeper understanding of the ways in which our embodiment makes all aspects of human experience possible. Students will also have a grasp of the key features of phenomenological method, Aristotelian-Thomistic Hylomorphism, and embodied cognitive science, and be able to describe some of the important contributions that each of these approaches makes to the understanding of human embodiment in each of the following aspects of human experience: perception, emotion, cognition, self-identity, agency, and intersubjectivity.

### **Course Requirements:**

As an advanced seminar course, this class will focus primarily on the discussion of assigned texts, although the instructor will provide background material in lecture form from time to time. Students will be expected to carefully prepare assigned readings in order to actively participate in the conversation and raise thoughtful questions in class. Each week a student will be asked to lead the class discussion by introducing a particular text and raising several substantive questions for discussion. Because this class is structured as a seminar, attendance and participation in the discussion is essential. Students are expected to be at every class meeting, and absences will *significantly* affect a student's final grade. Students with disabilities or whose first language is not English are encouraged to speak with the instructor about any special needs they might have.

Students will be evaluated according to the quality of their class participation and leadership of class discussions, and a final research paper of 15-20 pages. These assignments are designed to help students develop their own critical thinking regarding the philosophical accounts and contemporary issues of human embodiment, and articulate their understanding of these topics

both orally and in writing. They also offer students the opportunity to show their growth in the DSPT's institutional goals of integrative thinking, self-direction, collaborative learning, and leadership (Institutional Goals A1-3 and B1). All sources in the final research paper should be cited using proper "Turabian" format (see Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Eighth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013). Students should conscientiously avoid plagiarism, and are asked to consult the *DSPT Student Handbook* for the DSPT's policies regarding academic honesty. A **paper proposal** consisting of a short paragraph describing a student's chosen topic, along with a preliminary bibliography of a minimum of 10 sources, should be submitted by **April 21**. The **final research paper** is due by **May 26, 2017**. Late papers will be accepted, but may be subject to a 1/3 letter grade reduction for each day late (e.g., an "A" paper turned in one day late would receive an "A-.")

Grading: Weekly Class Participation: 25%

Class Presentations and Discussion Leadership: 25%

Final Research Paper: 50%

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## Assigned Texts:

Gallagher, Shaun. *Enactivist Interventions: Rethinking the Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0198848066. Hardcover. \$25.

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. *Phenomenology of Perception*. Translated by Donald A. Landes, et al. New York: Routledge, 2013. ISBN-13: 978-0415834339. Paperback. \$29.95.

Noë, Alva. *Action in Perception*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004. ISBN-13: 978-0262640633. Paperback. \$30.

Zahavi, Dan and Gallagher, Shaun. *The Phenomenological Mind*. Second Edition. ISBN-13: 978-0415610377. Paperback. Used from \$21.95.

Weekly reading assignments will be taken from these assigned texts, as well as from readings posted on Moodle (<http://moodle.gtu.edu>). The *Summa Theologiae* of St. Thomas Aquinas can be found online (including, for example, at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa>).

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## Course Schedule:

2/4: Introduction to the Course

Enlightenment Approaches to the Body, the Mind-Body Problem

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditations 1-2, 5-6

2/11: Alternative Approaches to Embodiment I: Phenomenology

An Introduction to Phenomenology

Gallagher and Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind*, Chapters 1-2, 6

Sokolowski, *Introduction to Phenomenology*, Chapter 7

Optional: Zahavi, "Phenomenology"

2/18: Alternative Approaches to Embodiment II: Hylomorphism or

Beginning Again from Aristotle

Aristotle, *Physics*, Book II, Chapter 1

Aristotle, *De Anima*, Book II, Chapters 1-4

Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, qq. 75, 76, a. 1-5, and 77, a. 1-6

William Jaworski, "Hylomorphism and Post-Cartesian  
Philosophy of Mind"

Optional: Gyula Klima, "Mind vs. Body and Other False Dilemmas of  
Post-Cartesian Philosophy of Mind"

2/25: Alternative Approaches to Embodiment III: 4e Cognitive Science

Noë, *Action in Perception*, Chapter 1

Gallagher, *Enactivist Interventions*, Chapter 1-2, 4

3/3: Perception and Embodiment I

Aristotle, *De Anima*, Book II, Chapters 5-7, 10-12; Book III, Chapters 1-2

Gallagher and Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind* 5

Husserl, *Thing and Space*, §§44-57

Optional: John J. Drummond, "On Seeing a Material Thing in Space"

3/10: Perception and Embodiment II

Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, Introduction to Part Two;

Chapter III, Parts A-C

Noë, *Action in Perception*, Chapter 3 (Optional: Chapter 2)

3/17: Affectivity, Moods, and Emotions

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§28-30

Aquinas, ST I, q.78, and I-II, qq. 22-23, 25

Lombardo, *The Logic of Desire*, Chapters 1-2

Optional: Anthony Hatzimoysis, "Emotions in Heidegger and Sartre"

Optional: Sheets-Johnston, "Emotion and Movement: A Beginning Empirical-Phenomenological Analysis of their Relationship"

3/24: No Class (Reading Week)

3/31: Husserl, Stein, and Merleau-Ponty on the Lived Body

Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, Part One, Chapters II-IV

Stein, *On the Problem of Empathy*, Chapter III, 1-4: pp. 37-56

Optional: Husserl, *Ideas II*, §§22-29, 35-42

4/7: The Lived Body and Intersubjectivity

Gallagher and Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind*, Chapter 9

Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations*, §§42-55

Optional: Stein, *On the Problem of Empathy*, Chapter III, 5: pp. 56-89

Optional: Dan Zahavi, "Phenomenology of Empathy"

4/14: No Class (Fr. Justin Away)

4/21: The Lived Body and Self-Awareness

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, Part 3, Chapter 2

Optional: "First-Person Thoughts and Embodied Self-Awareness"

Optional: Moran, "Sartre's Treatment of the Body in *Being and Nothingness*:"

"The Double Sensation"

4/28: Embodied Cognition I

Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, qq. 84, a. 1, 6-8; 85, a. 1-5; 87, a. 1, 3

Alva Noë, *Action in Perception* 6

Gallagher and Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind* 7

Optional: Gibson, "Theory of Affordances"

Optional: Dan Zahavi, "Empathy and Social Cognition"

5/5: Embodied Cognition II

Merleau-Ponty, *The Phenomenology of Perception*, Part One, Chapter VI

Lakoff and Johnson, *Metaphors We Live By*, Chapters 1, 6, 12, 13, 26

Shaun Gallagher, *Enactivist Interventions*, Chapters 9-10

Optional: Sheets-Johnstone, "Sensory-Kinetic Understandings of Language:"

An Inquiry into Origins"

5/12: Body and Agency

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, §§15-24

Gallagher and Zahavi, *The Phenomenological Mind* 8, 10

*Enactivist Interventions*, Chapter 5

Optional: Erik Rietveld, "Affordances and Unreflective Freedom"

Optional: Caiani, "Extending the Notion of Affordance"

Optional: Helena De Preester, "Equipment and Existential Spatiality: Heidegger, Cognitive Science, and the Prosthetic Subject"

5/19: Gender and Identity

Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception* Part I, Chapter V

Simon de Beauvoir, selections from *The Second Sex*

Stein, selections from *Woman*

Iris Marion Young, "Throwing Like a Girl"

5/26: Final Research Paper Due by 5 PM

N.B.: The instructor reserves the right to revise the course syllabus as the need arises.

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## Additional Resources

The following is a list of some supplemental and suggested readings. These are by no means required reading for the course, but may serve as an initial point of departure for further research into topics, approaches, and contemporary issues surrounding embodiment.

Askay, Richard R. "Heidegger, the Body, and the French Philosophers. *Continental Philosophy Review* 32 (1999): 29-35.

- Cates, Diana Fritz Cates. *Aquinas on the Emotions: A Religious-Ethical Inquiry*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2009.
- Clark, Andy and Chalmers, David. "The Extended Mind." *Analysis* 58, no. 1 (1998): 7-19.
- Damasio, Antonio. *Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain*. Toronto: Random House, 2010.
- . *The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Books, 1999.
- . *Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Brain*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994.
- Durt, Christoph, Thomas Fuchs, and Christian Tewes, eds. *Embodiment, Enaction, and Culture: Investigating the Constitution of the Shared World*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2017.
- Franck, Didier. *Flesh and Body: On the Phenomenology of Husserl*. Translated by Joseph River and Scott Davidson. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.
- Fuchs, Thomas. *Ecology of the Brain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.
- Gallagher, Shaun. *Enactivist Interventions: Rethinking the Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- . *Brainstorming: Views and Interviews on the Mind*. Charlottesville, VA: Imprint Academic, 2008.
- . *How the Body Shapes the Mind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Gallagher, Shaun and Daniel Schmicking, eds. *Handbook of Phenomenology and Cognitive Science*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2010.
- Gilson, James J. *The Ecological Approach to Visual Perception*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1986.
- Husserl, Edmund. *Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a Phenomenological Philosophy. Second Book: Studies in the Phenomenology of Constitution*. Translated by Richard



- Rojcewicz and André Schuwer. Husserl: Collected Works Volume IV. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1989. [*Ideen zu einer reinen Phänomenologie und phänomenologischen Philosophie. Zweiter Buch: Phänomenologische Untersuchungen zur Konstitution*, ed. M. Biemel. Husserliana IV. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1952.]
- . *Thing and Space: Lectures of 1907*. Translated and Edited by Richard Rojcewicz. Husserl: Collected Works Volume VII. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1997. [*Ding und Raum: Vorlesungen 1907*, ed. Ulrich Klaesges. Husserliana XVI. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1973.]
- Lisska, Anthony. *Aquinas's Theory of Perception: An Analytic Reconstruction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Lombardo, Nicholas, O.P. *The Logic of Desire: Aquinas on Emotion*. Washington, D.C: Catholic University of America Press, 2010.
- Malafouris, Labros. *How Things Shape the Mind: A Theory of Material Engagement*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2013.
- Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. *The Visible and the Invisible*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1968.
- . *The Primacy of Perception and Other Essays on Phenomenological Psychology, the Philosophy of Art, History and Politics*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1964.
- Morris, Katherine J., ed. *Sartre on the body*. Basingstoke: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2010.
- Newen, Albert, Leon de Bruin, and Shaun Gallagher. *The Oxford Handbook of 4e Cognition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- O'Callaghan, John. *Thomist Realism and the Linguistic Turn: Toward a More Perfect Form of Existence*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2003.

- Rowlands, Mark. *The New Science of the Mind: From Extended Mind to Embodied Phenomenology*.  
Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2010.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology*. Translated by  
Hazel E. Barnes. New York: Washington Square Press, 1992.
- . *Essays in Existentialism*. New York: Citadel Books, 1988.
- . *Existentialism and Human Emotion*. New York: Citadel Books, 1987.
- Sheets-Johnstone, Maxine. *The Primacy of Movement*. Second Edition. Amsterdam: John  
Benjamins Publishing, 2011.
- . *The Corporeal Turn: An Interdisciplinary Reader*. Charlottesville, VA: Imprint Academic,  
2009.
- Stein, Edith. *Philosophy of Psychology and the Humanities*. Translated by Marianne Sawicki.  
Washington, D.C.: ICS Publications, 2000.
- . *On the Problem of Empathy*. Translated by Waltraut Stein. Washington, D.C.: ICS  
Publications, 1989.
- Taipale, Joonas. *Phenomenology and Embodiment: Husserl and the Constitution of Subjectivity*.  
Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2014.
- Thompson, Evan. *Mind in Life: Biology, Phenomenology, and the Science of Mind*. Cambridge,  
Mass: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Varela, Francisco J., Evan Thompson, and Eleanor Rosch. *The Embodied Mind: Cognitive  
Science and Human Experience*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1991.