

**Syllabus: Simone de Beauvoir
Fall, 2012**

PHIL 463.563/CRN 16856. 16857
T/Th 10:00 – 11:50 am
201 Villard

Dr. Bonnie Mann
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Office Hrs: W 1:30-3:30pm
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Course Description

In 2010, after 57 years, a new translation of *The Second Sex* became available in English. This is Beauvoir's most important philosophical work, and the book credited with being the intellectual spark of the international 2nd wave feminist movement. The original English translation was done by a zoologist who, under pressure from the publishers, cut many pages from the original French text, mistranslated and misunderstood key philosophical terms, summarized entire paragraphs in his own words, omitted dozens of citations, and added his own responses to Beauvoir's text in footnotes—all without any indication that he was doing so. This means that the new translation is the first complete translation, the first chance for English speaking readers to read the entire text without learning French. In addition, in July of 2012, a new volume of Beauvoir's *Political Writings* was published. These writings have been compiled for the first time for English speaking readers. The Beauvoir course this time around will focus on a close reading of large sections of the new translation of *The Second Sex*, and of several chapters from the *Political Writings*. Graduate students will do a great deal of secondary reading, to begin to get a sense of the burgeoning scholarship on Beauvoir. Undergrads are required to do several readings from the course reader (marked #) but do not need to copy/purchase the reader, electronic copies will be provided.

Texts

Secondary readings will be in a *Course Reader* on reserve at the copy shop on 13th (only grads are required to copy the course reader, those items required of undergrads will be provided electronically).

The Second Sex, translated by Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier, Alfred Knopf, 2010.

Recommended: *The Second Sex*, translated by H.M. Parshley, Alfred Knopf, 1953.

Recommended: If you are competent in French, I have six two-volume sets of the original French text which I will loan out in class, or you may want to buy them, but read Moi's "While We Wait" before you decide which edition.

Political Writings, edited by Margaret A. Simons, University of Illinois Press.

Course Requirements

Participation: Regular attendance and participation, with evidence of careful reading and preparation, is assumed for graduate students (not meeting this expectation will severely impact your grade), and required for undergraduates.

Mid-Term Take-Home Exam: Undergraduates will take a mid-term take-home exam at the end of week 4.

Presentation: Graduate students will work to prepare a formal presentation on a thematic set of secondary readings. Assignments will be decided and guidelines will be handed out in class.

Paper Proposal: All students will submit a 4-page paper proposal for their final paper project on Thursday of week 8. Guidelines for the paper proposal will be handed out in class.

Final Paper: All students will write a final paper (7-10 pages for undergraduates; 10-15 pages for graduates), due on Wednesday of final's week by 5pm.

Accomodations for Disability

If you have a documented disability please see me at the beginning of the term so we can provide appropriate accommodations.

Grading

Undergraduates

- Participation 25% of final grade
Your participation grade will be based on a holistic assessment including your preparation for each class period as evidenced in vigorous participation in discussion, any small assignments to increase participation in class, and your attendance.
- Mid-Term Exam 25% of final grade
- Paper proposal 20% of final grade
- Final Paper 30% of final grade

Graduates

- Presentation 20% of final grade
- Paper Proposal 20% of final grade
- Final Paper 60% of final grade

Statement on Academic Honesty

It is my practice to assign a grade of F for the course to students who engage in acts of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty may include the following:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's product, words, ideas, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the product, words, ideas, or data of others, the source must be acknowledged by the use of complete, accurate, and specific references, such as footnotes. By placing one's name on work submitted for credit, one certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements. Verbatim statements by others must be enclosed by quotation marks or set off from the regular text as indented extracts.

Students will avoid being charged with plagiarism if there is acknowledgement of indebtedness. Indebtedness must be acknowledged whenever: 1) one quotes another person's actual words or replicates all or part of another's product; 2) one uses another person's ideas, opinions, work, data, or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one's own words; 3) one borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material—unless the information is common knowledge.

Unauthorized collaboration with others on papers or projects can inadvertently lead to a charge of plagiarism. If in doubt, consult the instructor or seek assistance from the staff of Academic Learning Services (68 PLC, 346-3226). In addition, it is plagiarism to submit as your own any academic exercise prepared totally or in part by another person, even if that person is acting as a tutor or editor (and ends up substantially producing part of the work).

Fabrication: Fabrication is the intentional use of information that the author has invented when he or she states or implies otherwise, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive.

Examples include, but are not limited to: 1) citing information not taken from the source indicated; 2) listing sources in a reference not used in the academic exercise; 3) inventing data or source information for research or other academic exercises.

Cheating: Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents or misleadingly demonstrates that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered, including the giving or receiving of unauthorized help in an academic exercise.

Examples include but are not limited to: 1) copying from another student's work; 2) collaborating without authority or allowing another student to copy one's work in a test situation; 3) using the course textbook or other material not authorized for use during a test; 4) using unauthorized material during a test; for example, notes, formula lists, cues on a computer, photographs, symbolic representations, and notes written on clothing; 5) resubmitting substantially the same work that was produced for another assignment without the knowledge and permission of the instructor; 6) taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test for you.

Calendar/Dates

Note: *means that secondary readings listed must be read/presented on the date they are listed, otherwise they may be presented on another date (to be scheduled); #means a secondary reading is required for **undergrads** as well as grads (this only applies to the first Bauer essay).

Volume I: Facts and Myths

Significance/Translations/Approach

Week 1

T 9/25	Opening Class: Beauvoir: Significance and Translation	
Th 9/27	“Introduction”	3-17
	“Literature and Metaphysics” (CR) from <i>Philosophical Writings</i>	263-277
	“What can Literature Do?” (CR) from <i>Literary Writings</i>	191-196
	“My Experience as a Writer” (CR) from <i>Literary Writings</i>	277-281

Significance:

#*Bauer, “Must we Read Simone de Beauvoir?”

Approach:

*Deutscher, “The Notorious Contradictions of Simone de Beauvoir”

Translation:

*Moi: “While we Wait...” and “The Adulterous Wife”

*Altman, “The Grand Rectification”

Men’s Point of View: Biology, Psychoanalysis, Historical Materialism

Week 2

T 10/2	“Biological Data” (<i>Les données de la biologie</i>)	21-48
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Biology:

*Fallaize: “A Saraband of Imagery: The Uses of Biological Science in *Le deuxième sexe*.”

*Gatens: “Beauvoir and Biology: A Second Look”

The Body:

Scarth: “The ‘Body Problem’ in *The Second Sex*,” and “The Body and Ambiguity”

Arp: “Beauvoir’s Concept of Bodily Alienation”

Bergoffen: “Getting the Beauvoir We Deserve”

Th 10/4	Psychoanalysis and Historical Materialism	49-68
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Historical Materialism:

*Simons: “The Second Sex: From Marxism to Radical Feminism”

Men’s Point of View: Myths

Week 3

T 10/9	Myths: Chapter 1	159-213
Th 10/11	Myths: Chapter 2, section IV, Chapter 3	261-274

Beauvoir and Hegel:

Gothlin: "Simone de Beauvoir's Existential Phenomenology and Philosophy of History"

Bauer, "The Second Sex and the Master-Slave Dialectic"

Altman, "Beauvoir, Hegel, and War"

Mussett, "Conditions of Servitude: Woman's Peculiar role in the Master-Slave Dialectic in Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*"

Volume II: Lived Experience

Women's Point of View: *The Child and the Wife*

Week 4

T 10/16 Vol. II Introduction; Childhood, 279; 283-340

Childhood:

*Grosholtz, "The House We Never Leave: Childhood, Shelter and Freedom in the Writings of Beauvoir and Colette"

Th 10/18 The Married Woman 439-523

Marriage:

*Bergoffen: "Marriage, Autonomy, and the Feminine Protest"

Week 5

T 10/23 The Married Woman (Continued) [Guest Lecture: Megan Burke]

Beauvoir and Heidegger

Bauer: "Beauvoir's Heideggerian Ontology,"

Gothlin, "Reading Beauvoir with Martin Heidegger"

Interlude: *Beauvoir and Levi-Strauss/ On your Own: Women's Point of View: Situation*

Week 5(continued) [Guest Lecture *Beauvoir and Levi-Strauss*: Beata Stawarska]

Th 10/25 #CR "Review of the Elementary Structures of Kinship" by Levi-Strauss (Les Temps Modernes, in French; draft English translation is in your Course Reader (grads); will be provided as attachment to undergrads);
Second Sex, Vol. I, Introduction, pp. 3-17, P. II History, Ch. 2 pp. 76-89.

On Your Own:

Woman's Situation and Character 638-664

Beauvoir's masculinism?:

*Léon: Beauvoir's Woman: Eunuch or Male?

* Brison: "Beauvoir and Feminism: Interview and Reflections"

*Mann: "Beauvoir and the Question of a Woman's Point of View"

Women's Point of View: *Justification*

Week 6

T 10/30 The Woman in Love 683-208

The Erotic:

*Bauer: "The Struggle for Self in the Second Sex"

*Bergoffen: "Risking and Ethics of the Erotic"

Toward Liberation

Th 11/1 The Independent Woman 721-751
 Conclusion 753-763

*Moi: "Independent Women/Narratives of Liberation"

Week 7

T 11/6 "Must We Burn Sade?" (Political Writings) 39-101

Th 11/8 "Must We Burn Sade?" (continued)

Week 8

T 11/13 "Right Wing Thought Today" (Political Writings) 105-193

Th 11/15 "Right Wing Thought Today" (continued)

All Students: Paper proposal due.

Week 9

T 11/20 #CR "A Review of the Phenomenology of Perception" (1945) 151-164

 "Merleau-Ponty and Pseudo-Sartrean" (1955) 197-257

*Daigle, "Where Influence Fails: Embodiment in Beauvoir and Sartre"

Recommended, not required (not in CR)

*Sartre: *The Communists and Peace*

*Merleau-Ponty: "Sartre and Ultrabolshevism" from *Adventures of the Dialectic*

**The Debate Between Sartre and Merleau-Ponty*, edited by Jon Stewart

Th 11/22 Thanksgiving Holiday

Beauvoir *contra* Sartre on Freedom

Heinämaa: "Simone de Beauvoir's Phenomenology of Sexual Difference"

Veltman, "The Concept of Transcendence in Beauvoir and Sartre"

Weiss, "Freedom F/Or the Other"

Kruks, "Beauvoir: The Weight of Situation"

Week 10

T 11/27 "Merleau-Ponty and Pseudo-Sartrean" (continued)

Th 11/29 "Preface to Djamilia Boupacha" 261-282