Do one of these if you want to. Remember, you need to do two of the three writing assignments overall, and you can do all three if you want. As always, these are essays, not research papers; you typically shouldn't need to cite anything but the assigned readings. Don't hesitate to use quotations and citations from those texts when appropriate to support your claims and interpretations. Stay off the internets; they will only confuse things more. Essays should be close to 1200 words long for students in 442, and close to 1500 words long for students in 542. And please review and follow the paper submission rules below before submitting your paper.

1. What would Merleau-Ponty say about Sartre's view that the for-itself is the source of all intentionality? How do Merleau-Ponty's views about intentionality with “anonymity” bear here? Evaluate the tension between the views, and say how we might try to decide between them.

2. Summarize and critically evaluate Merleau-Ponty's argument that perception must be separated from sensation. Please make significant use of the text, and don’t just summarize the discussion from class.

3. Summarize and critically evaluate Merleau-Ponty’s argument that perception must be separated from judgment. Please make significant use of the text, and don’t just summarize the discussion from class.

4. What do you think is the most important thing that Merleau-Ponty's views about sensation and stimulus have to teach scientific or other philosophical views about the mind? Why do you think that? What’s the best reason you can think of for rejecting that suggestion? Adjudicate.

5. Give the best argument you can against the idea of qualia from a perspective like Merleau-Ponty's; the best defense of the idea of qualia against that attack; and an evaluation of the debate.

6. Compare and contrast Merleau-Ponty's independent, opaque, and non-thetic synthesis of perception with Heidegger's pre-ontological understanding of Being. How are they most alike? Most different? Which account seems better? Why?

7. Explain Merleau-Ponty's account of motion or orientation from "Space" (Book 2 chapter 2 of PofP). What's the best thing about it? What's the worst thing about it? How might he respond to your characterization of the worst thing about it? Evaluate.

8. Substitute topic: If you have a different topic you would like to write on that comes out of the class, you may submit the topic for approval. Any substitute topics must be submitted as a one-paragraph e-mail to me by noon on Friday May 10th. If I approve the substitute topic (which would happen later that day) you may write on it instead. If not, you must write on one of these. Don’t assume I’ll approve it; the vast majority of suggested substitutes are way too broad.

9. Explain Merleau-Ponty’s account of motion or orientation from "Space" (Book 2 chapter 2 of PofP). What's the best thing about it? What's the worst thing about it? How might he respond to your characterization of the worst thing about it? Evaluate.

10. Briefly explain McClamrock's critique of Noë on P-properties and the dual nature of perception. Then, making use of something from one or more of our phenomenologists this semester, give the best response available for Noë, and the best rebuttal you can to that response. Then, evaluate the disagreement.

11. Read Merleau-Ponty's "The Film and the New Psychology" (available at the usual E-Reserves). (Note that Merleau-Ponty puts himself on the same side as the "new psychology" -- essentially, Gestalt psychology -- in it.) For a half of your paper, explain how what he says in the first half of this paper lines up with how we've come to see his views in Phenomenology of Perception. For the other half of your paper, state and critically evaluate what you think is the most important claim he makes in the second half of his paper (the half that's actually about film).

12. We've considered the suggestion that taking seriously the move toward a wordly and embodied view of phenomenology is a fundamental transformation in what we should think consciousness is, and so also transforms what problem we need to solve to solve "the riddle of consciousness". Briefly explain this suggestion, making use of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology appropriately; give the best objection to it you can; and evaluate the suggestion in the light of that objection.
The usual paper submission rules:

- Papers must be submitted as documents attached to e-mail addressed to me at rmcclamrock@albany.edu. These should be formatted as .docx files if possible (the native format in recent Microsoft Word); if you can't use .docx, use .rtf ("Rich Text Format"). You need to use one of those formats. No PDFs or other file formats.
- Name the file following this format: Q1A1_Lastname_Firstname_PHI442.docx, substituting your name and the assignment/question numbers in appropriately -- e.g., assignment #2 written on question 3 from Eric Cartman should be named "Q3A2_Cartman_Eric_PHI442.docx" (replacing "442" with "542" if you're in APHI 542).
- Send the paper as an attachment to an email message. The subject line of the email should be the same as the paper file name; e.g., “Q3A2_Cartman_Eric_PHI442”. The message body should not be left empty; include a line saying “Here is Eric Cartman’s assignment #3 on question #2 for PHI 442” (substituting with your own details.) You may also include a joke in the message body, but no extra credit unless it's really, really funny.
- **Please format your paper like this**: Single-spaced, with your name, the assignment and question number, and any title you might give to the paper at the top of the first page (don’t use a separate title page). Please set the text font to 12pt Times-Roman, and set the left margin to 1” and the right margin to 2.5”.
- When you send papers to me, please cc: yourself to make sure everything worked OK.
- Late papers are marked down by one grade notch (e.g. B to B or B- to C+) **for every hour or portion thereof** I receive them after the due date and time.
- **Plagiarizing** (i.e. using the words or content of others as your own), will result in being failed for the course and reported to the Dean's office. Please, cite any outside sources that influence your paper, especially (but not only) ones that you quote.