

## **A Philosophy of Vision**

Sándor SAJÓ

We shall discuss the meaning and significance of vision in experience in general. We shall start with a text from Foucault, continue with Diderot's classical text, then focus on phenomenology (Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, Lévinas, Marion). We shall also read authors from the psychoanalytical tradition (Lacan) and art history (Didi-Huberman). Fundamental philosophical issues, closely connected to vision, shall also be discussed such as the problem of consciousness, the relation of mind and body, the relation of the I and the other.

Requirements: regular attendance (3 classes may be missed), active participation in the discussions, submission of an essay at the end of the semester.

### **Reading List**

Blanchot, Maurice. "The Two Versions of the Imaginary". In *The Space of Literature*. Trans. Ann Smock. Lincoln/London: Nebraska Press, 1989. pp. 253-263.

Diderot, Denis. "Letter on the Blind". Trans. Kate E. Tunstall, in: Kate E. Tunstall: *Blindness and Enlightenment*, New York/London: continuum, 2011, pp. 167-229.

Didi-Huberman, Georges: "The Image as Rend and the Death of God Incarnate". In *Confronting Images*. Trans. John Goodman. Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania State UP, 2005, pp. 139-228.

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish. The Birth of the Prison*. Trans. Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. pp. 195-228.

Lacan, Jacques. "The Mirror Stage". In *Ecrits. A Selection*. Trans. Bruce Fink, New York/London: W.W.Norton, 2004, pp. 1-8.

Lévinas, Emmanuel. *Totality and Infinity. An Essay on Exteriority*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. The Hague/Boston/London: Martinus Nijhoff, 1979, pp.187-193.

Marion, Jean-Luc. *The Erotic Phenomenon*. Trans. Stephen E. Lewis. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2007, pp.112-120.

Merleau-Ponty, Maurice. *The Visible and the Invisible*. Trans. Alphonso Lingis. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1968, pp. 130-156.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Being and Nothingness*. Trans. Hazel E. Barnes. New York: The Philosophical Library, 1956, pp. 9-12 ("café scene"), 55-56 ("bad faith"), 252-271 ("the look").