

Philosophy 2306
Philosophy and Feminism
Professor Christine Koggel

Fall 2016: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:05-11:25

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 or by appointment

Room 3A46 Paterson Hall, ext. 3239

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Classroom Policy: NO Laptops – unless by permission. NO iPhones or any other mobile devices.

REQUIRED TEXT (CAN BE PURCHASED AT HAVEN BOOKSTORE AT 43 SENECA STREET – CORNER OF SUNNYSIDE AND SENECA)

The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy. Third Edition. Allan G. Johnson.

Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014. (Main text is also on Library reserve.)

All other readings (as noted on the “Class by Class Reading List” are **posted on cuLearn**. Please note that material may be changed or added. You will be given advance warning if this happens.

Course Description

Philosophy has played a key role in the emergence of feminism at the same time as the discipline has been largely male-dominated and prone to propounding and disseminating discriminatory beliefs about women. Feminist theory has, therefore, come to play a crucial role in uncovering biases and in its critical analysis of theories of all kinds in the history of Philosophy. In this course, we review some of the key concepts used by feminist philosophers and explore some of the history of the emergence and development of feminism. From here, we can begin to grasp that feminism has itself become a rich, varied, and broad area of philosophical inquiry and that there are many kinds of feminism and feminists.

In recent times, we often encounter beliefs that discrimination on the basis of gender has been eliminated and that women have achieved equality. We challenge these assumptions and beliefs through an examination of the key concepts of patriarchy, sexism, and oppression. In the process of exploring these concepts central to feminist theory, we pay attention to the history of feminism as well as to contemporary accounts of women’s varied experiences and what this means for feminist theory and feminism. This examination then forms the base from which we explore the relevance of gender to philosophical questions about identity, difference, knowledge, morality, and the self and to issues in the contemporary global context.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Assignment to replace the class on September 15th (worth 10% of the final grade). You will hand in this assignment (no more than 3 double spaced pages and no less than 2 double-spaced pages) at the beginning of the Tuesday class on September 20th. It will cover the material from the two classes on September 13th and September 20th. Details on the assignment itself are on the “Class by Class Reading List” below under September 15th.

NOTE: A key component of this assignment is to have you summarize the positions accurately – and before you launch into your discussion and analysis. I don’t want gut reactions and off the cuff opinions. I do want a real engagement with the ideas and the issues.

- 2) Mid-term exam (1.5 hours) worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be on the readings on material covered in Weeks 1-5 and on the class lectures and discussion of this material. It will be an in-class exam held on October 6th.
- 3) This requirement has you read the interviews on race conducted by George Yancy for the New York Times in 2015. You need to compare, contrast and analyze the discussion of three of the philosophers interviewed. The assignment should be no more than 4 double spaced pages (worth 20% of the final grade) and due at the beginning of class on November 15th.

NOTE: The purpose of this assignment is to make you aware of and have you think about contemporary philosophical discussions of race as they are happening in the context of racism in America and beyond. Part of the task of this assignment is to have you summarize the positions accurately – and before you launch into your analysis. Again, I don’t want gut reactions and off the cuff opinions. I do want a real engagement with the ideas and the issues. The goal of this requirement is to help you develop a critical eye in reading news items and be able to connect what is covered in the news items with the philosophical arguments we cover in class.

- 4) Class attendance (mandatory) and participation (worth 15% of the final grade).
- 5) Final term paper worth 30% of the final grade (about 8-9 double spaced pages). The term paper covers the material covered in Weeks 6-13 (material after the Mid-term Exam). Topics will be handed out in advance. The due date is noted on the “Class by Class Reading List” below.

CLASS BY CLASS READING LIST

Week 1 - Feminism and Philosophy

September 8 - Introduction to the course.

Week 2 – Key Concepts

September 13 - Readings from *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 1 (3-25) and from Frye's *The Politics of Reality*, Chapter on Oppression (**on cuLearn**).

September 15

Class replaced by assignment due at the beginning of class on September 20 (see Assignment below).

Week 3 – Key Concepts

September 20 - Readings from *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 2 (26-47) and from Frye's *The Politics of Reality*, Chapter on Sexism (**on cuLearn**).

Assignment: Carefully read and review the readings from Johnson's revised 2014 edition of *The Gender Knot* (Chapters 1 and 2) as well as the readings from Frye's *The Politics of Reality* (Chapters on Oppression and Sexism) written in 1983. Take a stand on whether changes/progress have been made in the 30 years between the publications of these books by comparing and contrasting what each has to say about structures of oppression, patriarchy, and sexism. Make use of at least 3 examples that each author uses to do your analysis of each. You should also review instructions on this assignment as provided in the Course Requirements above.

September 22 – Readings from *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 3 (48-72) and Chapter 4 (73-91).

Week 4 – Historical Roots of Feminism

September 27 - Readings from Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Chapter IX "Of the Pernicious Effects which Arise from the Unnatural Distinctions Established in Society" (**on cuLearn**).

September 29 - Readings from John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Woman*, Chapter 1 (**on cuLearn**).

Week 5 – Historical Roots of Feminism

October 4 – From Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Introduction (**on cuLearn**).

October 6 - **Midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-5.**

Week 6 – Kinds of Feminism

October 11 – Readings from *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 5 (92-121) and from Iris Marion Young "Five Faces of Oppression" (**on cuLearn**).

- **Responsibility and Change**

October 13 - Readings from *The Gender Knot*, Chapter 9 (195-209) and from Marilyn Frye "White Woman Feminist" from *Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism* (The Crossing Press 1992) (**on cuLearn**)

Week 7 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

October 18 - Readings from Maria Lugones "Playfulness, 'World'-Travelling, and Loving Perception" *Hypatia*, v. 2, no. 2, 1987: 3-19 (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (**on cuLearn**)

October 20 – Readings from Mariana Ortega "Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color", *Hypatia*, v. 21, no. 3, 2006: 56-74 (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (**on cuLearn**)

FALL BREAK

Week 8 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

November 1 – Readings from Uma Narayan "Working Together across Difference", *Hypatia*, v. 3, no. 2, 1988: 31-47. (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (**on cuLearn**) and from *The New York Times. The Opinion Pages, The Stone* (**on cuLearn**)

Start to think about the readings for this week and next in connection with the Assignment due on November 15th.

November 3 – Readings from Laurence Thomas "Moral Deference" from *Theorizing Multiculturalism*: 359-381 (**on cuLearn**) and from *The New York Times. The Opinion Pages, The Stone* (**on cuLearn**)

Week 9 – Difference – Philosophical Conversations and Analysis

November 8 - Readings from Sally Haslanger "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them to Be?" from *Nous* 34:1 (2000): 31-55 (**on cuLearn**) and from *The New York Times. The Opinion Pages, The Stone* (**on cuLearn**)

November 10 - Readings from Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex" from *The University of Chicago Legal Forum* (1989): 139-167 (**on cuLearn**) and from *The New York Times. The Opinion Pages, The Stone* (**on cuLearn**)

Assignment due beginning of class on November 15th: Pick THREE of the interviews that George Yancy conducted with philosophers in 2015 on the topic of race. Compare and contrast the approaches of these three philosophers with respect to race and to differences more generally. Your discussion/analysis of the interviews you select should make use of, apply, or contrast an account or argument from ONE of the readings in Weeks 8 or 9 (Narayan, Thomas, Haslanger, or Crenshaw). You should also review instructions on this assignment as provided in the Course Requirements above.

Week 10 –Differences Revisited

November 15 – Readings from Susan Wendell “Toward a Feminist Theory of Disability”, *Hypatia*, v. 4, no. 2, 1989: 104-124. (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (on cuLearn)

Assignment (above) due at beginning of class.

November 17 – Readings from Dean Spade “Mutilating Gender” Spring 2000 (on cuLearn)

Week 11 – Is Ethics Gendered?

November 22 – Readings from Carol Gilligan’s *In a Different Voice*: Letter to Readers (ix-xxvii), Introduction (1-4) and Chapter 1 (15-23) (on cuLearn).

November 24 - Readings from Annette Baier (on cuLearn) and from Joan Tronto “Creating Caring Institutions” from *Ethics and Social Welfare* Special Issue *Care Ethics* (on cuLearn).

Week 12 – Is Ethics Gendered?

November 29 – Readings from Charles Mills “‘Ideal Theory’ as Ideology” *Hypatia*, v. 20, no. 3, 2005 (165-184) (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (on cuLearn)

December 1 - Readings from Sue Campbell “Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression” *Hypatia*, v. 9, no. 3, 1994: 46-65 (Selected as one of the 16 all-time best articles for the 25th Anniversary of *Hypatia* in 2010) (on cuLearn)

Week 13 – Feminism: The Global Context

December 6 – Readings from Joan Tronto “Partiality Based on Relational Responsibility” *Ethics and Social Welfare. Special Issue: Gender Justice*, v. 6, no. 3, 2012 (303-316 (on cuLearn)

December 8 – Readings from Chandra Mohanty’s *Feminism Without Borders*. Chapter 1, “Under Western Eyes Revisited” (on cuLearn).

FINAL TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS OR NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 9TH BY 4:15 P.M. (FLOOR 3A AS PER INSTRUCTIONS UNDER DEPARTMENT POLICIES BELOW). DEADLINE IS SPECIFIED IN THE ACADEMIC CALENDAR AS “LAST DAY FOR HANDING IN TERM WORK AND THE LAST DAY THAT CAN BE SPECIFIED BY A COURSE INSTRUCTOR AS A DUE DATE FOR TERM WORK FOR FALL TERM COURSES.”

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting

accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

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| Sept. 7 | Classes start. |
| Sept. 20 | Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses. |
| Sept. 30 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses. |
| Oct. 10 | Thanksgiving Day – University closed. |
| Oct. 24-28 | Fall Break – no classes. |
| Nov. 25 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Dec. 9 | Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule. |
| Dec. 9 | Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses. |
| Dec. 9 | Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Dec. 10-22 | Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Dec. 22 | Take-home exams are due. |
| Jan. 5 | Winter term classes begin. |
| Jan. 18 | Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes. |
| Jan. 31 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses. |
| Feb. 20 | Family Day – University closed. |
| Feb. 20-24 | Winter Break, no classes. |
| Mar. 24 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Apr. 7 | Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. |
| Apr. 7 | Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Apr. 10-25 | Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Apr. 14 | Good Friday – University closed. |
| Apr. 25 | Take-home exams are due. |

Addresses:

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| Department of Philosophy: | 3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110 |
| Registrar's Office: | 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500 |
| Student Academic Success Centre: | 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850 |
| Writing Tutorial Service: | 4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632 |
| MacOdrum Library | http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735 |