

PHIL 2306 Philosophy and Feminism

Carleton University, Fall Term 2011

Monday and Wednesday, 6.05-7.25 p.m.

Room: 501 Southam Hall

Professor: Iva Apostolova

Office: 329B Patterson Hall

Contact info: iapostol@connect.carleton.ca, ext. 6307

Office Hours: Wednesday, 12-2 p.m.

Required Course Materials: There will be a course pack available in September from Haven Books on 43 Seneca St., (613) 730 9888, www.havenbooks.ca

Note: If you think that you can find the texts online, feel free not to purchase the course pack.

Objectives: The main objective of this course is to introduce students to philosophical discussions within the framework of feminism. The course will explore the influence of a number of feminist thinkers in such areas of philosophy as ethics, philosophy of science, ecological thinking, biomedical ethics, etc. Class discussion is vital in this course! The professor will introduce the feminist thinkers and their texts and open the floor for discussion.

Course evaluation: There will be one text review worth 30% of the final mark each, one midterm worth 30% of the final mark and one final assignment worth 40% of the final mark. Students have to submit 5 page double-spaced (maximum) review of one text of their choice from the course pack only (no outside texts will be allowed for review!). Additional guidelines for writing a review will be posted on the web-site. The midterm and the final assignment will be knowledge-based. Questions for the final assignment will be posted on the course web-site ahead of time.

The review is due before but no later than by Monday, **October 10, 2011** by the end of the class (7.30 p.m.). The penalty for late assignments is **10%** for every day of delay (weekends including). Exceptions will be made only upon the presentation of a doctor's note or any other verifiable official document. Note that the drop-box of the Philosophy Department is collected every day at 4:15 p.m. Anything submitted after that time will have a stamp of the next calendar day (if it's a Friday, it will be stamped on Monday morning).

There will be an in-class midterm to take place on Wednesday, **November 2, 2011**. Failure to show up without a valid documentation will result in 0 (zero). Make-up midterms will be available only

upon presentation of a doctor's note or any other official document vouching for the student's absence.

There will also be a final assignment due on the last class, **November 30, 2011**. The final assignment is worth 40% of the final mark. The questions for the final assignment will be posted on the course web-site well in advance. The questions will be based only on the material covered in class.

Note that there is no delay penalty for the final assignment. Failure to submit the final assignment by the due date will result in **0 (zero)**.

No electronic copies of any of the assignments will be accepted!

Attendance: While there will be no marks assigned for attendance and participation, there will be penalty marks for absence. Attendance will be kept for every class. I will allow 3 (three) absences without a doctor's note (or other official documentation). After that allowable absence limit, students lose 1% of their final mark for every class missed (half classes do not count as a whole class!).

Note: Please note that the syllabus is subject to changes and modifications due to time constraints and in-class progress!

The standard time for returning marked tests/exams is two weeks from the date of the test/exam. However, in some cases, it may require more time. Announcements of any changes will be made in class or posted on the web-site of the course.

Please note that the syllabus will be posted on WebCT. Any additional postings on the course web-site are considered an official communication between the professor and the students and it is a responsibility of the students to check the web-site regularly and keep up to date with the postings.

Course Description:

The course is a study of philosophical issues arising from feminism. The course includes discussions of the relations between feminism, reason and ideological commitment, as well as critical evaluation of contemporary views on selected topics (e.g. abortion, pornography and censorship, affirmative action, and beauty). The course will start with such pre-feminist thinkers as Hildegard of Bingen and Christine de Pizan (both Medieval intellectuals) and continue with a combination of classical texts by Shulamith Firestone, Luce Irigaray, Simone de Beauvoir, and contemporary analytic feminist texts by the eco-feminists Karen J. Warren and Marti Kheel.

List of texts to be covered in the course:

1. Hildegard of Bingen, Book of Divine Works (excerpt)
2. Christine de Pizan, The City of Ladies (excerpt)
3. Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (introduction)
4. Luce Irigaray, Each Sex Must Have its Own Rights
5. Shulamith Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex
6. Carol Gilligan, In A Different Voice (excerpt)
7. Nel Noddings, Ethics from the Viewpoint of Women
8. Joan Tronto, Women and Caring: What Can Feminists Learn about Morality from Caring?
9. Sara Ruddick, Maternal Thinking
10. Claudia Card, Against Marriage and Motherhood
11. Christine Overall, Access to In Vitro Fertilization: Costs, Care, and Consent
12. Mary-Ann Warren, On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion
13. Karen J. Warren, The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism
14. Marti Kheel, From Heroic to Holistic Ethics: The Ecofeminist Challenge
15. Jennifer Saul, Feminism, Science and Bias

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

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 me 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/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me 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/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to

mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 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
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735