

Philosophy 2306
Philosophy and Feminism
Professor Christine Koggel

Fall 2023: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:05-2:25

Location: 236 Tory Building

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30- 4:00 (in-person or virtual by appointment)

Room 3A46 Paterson Hall, ext. 3239

email: christine.koggel@carleton.ca

TEXTBOOKS: WE WILL BE READING MOST OF THE TWO TEXTS LISTED BELOW. THEY 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.

Living a Feminist Life. Sarah Ahmed. Duke University Press, 2017.

All other readings (as noted on the “Class-by-Class Reading List” are **posted on Brightspace (under ARES)**. Please note that material may be changed or added. You will be given advance warning if this happens. Also note that there may be some classes that will be recorded in advance for viewing on Brightspace.

Course Description (from the calendar):

PHIL 2306 [0.5 credit]

Philosophy and Feminism

A study of philosophical issues arising from feminism. The course includes discussions of the historical roots of feminism, the role of reason and emotion, key concepts such as oppression, sexism, equality and difference, feminism and philosophies of race and of disability, and selected moral/political issues.

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 credit in philosophy or second-year standing.

Lectures three hours a week.

Course Description for fall 2023

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 feminisms 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, oppression, equality and sex/gender. 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 difference and varied experiences and what this means for feminist theory, feminism, and various topics. This examination then forms the base from which we explore the relevance of gender to moral and

political issues related to issues of identity, difference, knowledge, intersectionality, law and policy, moral decision-making, and responsibility.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, a successful student should:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge of the differences between some contemporary and some canonical views of feminism and (and in) philosophy.
- 2) Explore the applications, including the limits, of the theories studied, and examine possibilities for increasing knowledge and new lines of inquiry.
- 3) Practice the principle of charity and the strongest possible interpretations of selected texts.
- 4) Be able to write about complex central ideas and arguments from selected sources.

PLAGIARISM: The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, AI and computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: I will not ban electronic devices from class (I have done this in previous classes!), but I quite dislike it when students are involved/engaged with using electronic devices in class. I will be upfront in admitting that I find it distracting and disrespectful, and other students often confirm that they too find it distracting and disrespectful when they see fellow students engrossed in non-lecture/non-class activities! NOTE that the Premiers of Ontario and Quebec have banned cell phones in public school classrooms! Please turn off (or silence) your cell phones and put them away at the start of class. The use of laptops for the **sole purpose** of note-taking is permitted.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It is a requirement of the course that you read the readings and attend classes. The “Class-by-Class Reading List” below identifies the readings. Opportunities for in-class participation will be a bit

limited because of class size. There will be opportunities for participation on readings and class lectures/discussion as explained in 2) below.)

1) **Mid-term exam (in-class) worth 25% of the final grade.** The exam will be on the readings on material covered in Weeks 1-6 and on the class lectures and discussion of this material. The midterm exam review questions will be available no later than October 13th. You will write the exam in class on October 16th. I am not looking for a particular length but for concise and precise answers – as much as you can write in 80 minutes.

2) **Class attendance (worth 10% of the final grade).** Because this course is centred around the readings and lectures, nothing is more important than attending class. You are adults and we will play this by ear. In those classes where attendance seems to be waning, an attendance sheet will be sent around for you to sign.

3) **Class participation (worth 25% of the final grade).** Your participation grade will be determined on the basis of you having done the readings, asking questions, or making contributions related to the readings and classes, and doing these things at various points throughout the semester. This component of the grade can be satisfied by contributing in any of the ways listed below multiple times throughout the course of the semester. I will use a points system that allows 1-3 points per contribution. Higher points will be assigned to contributions that engage with the texts, the lectures, and each other (respectfully). The more points you have at the end of the semester, the higher your grade out of 25.

a) Ask questions/make comments about the material covered in class lectures by sending an email or posting a comment/question on a Brightspace discussion group forum (so that classmates can contribute to answers to the question). Discussion group forums will be set up on Brightspace every week.

b) Answer questions posed by others in a).

c) Ask questions or contribute to the in-person class discussion. Follow this up with an email reporting what your in-class question or contribution was. (I get to review the question and/or contribution so that I get to know you, your understanding of the readings, and whether I missed something in my responses to questions/comments.)

d) Ask questions or make comments on Brightspace discussion group forum OR respond (respectfully) to a question or comment made by a classmate on Brightspace. (I get to review the question and/or discussion so that I can assess whether the material/ideas/concepts/arguments are being grasped and understood well.)

e) Schedule a time during one of my “office hour” meetings to talk through an interesting or puzzling reading or an issue or argument discussed in class. You must have done the readings or attended the class in which the reading was discussed, and you must come to our meeting with questions and/or comments on the reading(s). (These are not opportunities to have me redo lectures for missed classes.)

f) Contribute to discussion groups – when these are set up in some of the classes.

4) THREE short assignments on readings (one single space or two double-spaced pages) (each worth 5% of the final grade for a total of 15%). Assignment information is marked on the Class-by-Class Reading list. I have marked FOUR of these and will take the best THREE grades if you do all FOUR.

These short assignments on the readings will provide early feedback and help ensure that you keep up with the readings and with what happens in class. The assignment topic will be provided on Brightspace the day before the readings are covered. The topics will test comprehension of a particular aspect of a particular reading. You will take 10-15 minutes to write these near the beginning of class. Please review the PDF “NotesVsLaptops” on Brightspace for why we do these this way.

5) Final term paper worth 25% of the final grade (about 6-8 double-spaced pages). The term paper covers the material covered in Weeks 7-13. Topics will be handed out in advance. The general task will be to have you summarize the readings you select to work on and to do so 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, concept, issues, and arguments in the readings you discuss and a fair and accurate account of what the authors say/argue.

The due date is no later than **December 8th** as noted on the "Class by Class Reading List" below.

CLASS-BY-CLASS READING LIST

Week 1 - Feminism and Philosophy

September 6 - Introduction to the course.

Read "All My Pronouns: How I learned to live with the singular *they*" by Annie Fadiman.

Harper's Magazine, August 2020:

https://harpers.org/archive/2020/08/all-my-pronouns-the-singular-they/?campaign_id=3&emc=edit_MBAU_p_20200804&instance_id=20968&nl=morning-briefing®i_id=90327141§ion=whatElse&segment_id=35233&te=1&user_id=b8ad05e9d7c9874ad944b617c9a70ea8

Decide on your preferred pronouns and let me know.

Week 2 – Key Concepts

September 11 - Readings from Allan Johnson's *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 1 (3-25) and from Marilyn Frye's *The Politics of Reality*, Chapter on Oppression (**on Brightspace**).

September 13 - Readings from Johnson's *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 2 (26-47) and from Frye's *The Politics of Reality*, Chapter on Sexism (**on Brightspace**).

Week 3 – Key Concepts

September 18 - Readings from Johnson's *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 3 (48-72) and from Anne Fausto-Sterling's *Sexing the Body*, Chapter 1, "Dueling Dualisms" (1-29) (**on Brightspace**).

September 20 – Readings from Anne Fausto-Sterling's *Sexing the Body*, Chapter 4, "Should there be Only Two Sexes?" (78-114) (**on Brightspace**).

Week 4 – Historical Roots of Feminism

September 25 - 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 Brightspace**).

Assignment topic 1 on the readings for September 27th on Brightspace Sept 27 by 10 a.m.

September 27 - Readings from John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Woman*, Chapter 1 (**on Brightspace**) and from Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Introduction (**on Brightspace**).

Assignment 1 in-class.

Week 5 – Kinds of Feminism

October 2 – Readings from *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 5 (92-121) and from Rosemary Tong's *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, "Introduction: The Diversity of Feminist Thinking" (1-9) **(on Brightspace)**.

October 4 – Readings from Iris Marion Young's *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, Chapter 2: "Five Faces of Oppression" **(on Brightspace)** and from bell hooks' *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, Chapter 2: "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression" **(on Brightspace)**

Week 6 – Kinds of Feminism

October 9 – Thanksgiving Holiday. This missed class means we have a class on December 8th.

October 11 - Readings from Linda Martín Alcoff "The Radical Future of #MeToo: The Effects of an Intersectional Analysis" *Social Philosophy Today* doi: 10.5840/socphiltoday20218980 Online First: August 10, 2021 **(on Brightspace)**.

Week 7 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

October 16 – **In-class Midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-6.**

October 18 – Readings from Maria Lugones "Playfulness, 'World'-Travelling, and Loving Perception" *Hypatia*, v. 2, no. 2, 1987: 3-19 **(on Brightspace)** and from Mariana Ortega "Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color," *Hypatia*, v. 21, no. 3, 2006: 56-74 **(on Brightspace)**

FALL BREAK

Week 8 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

October 30 - Readings from Marilyn Frye's *Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism* (The Crossing Press 1992) Chapter "White Woman Feminist" (147-169) **(on Brightspace)**

November 1 – Readings from Laurence Thomas "Moral Deference" from *Theorizing Multiculturalism*. (p. 359-381) **(on Brightspace)**

Week 9 – Differences and Being Feminist

November 6 - Readings from Sara Ahmed's *Living a Feminist Life*, Chapters 7 and 8.
Assignment topic 2 on the reading for November 8th on Brightspace Nov. 8 by 10 a.m.

November 8 - Readings from Sara Ahmed's *Living a Feminist Life*, Chapter 9.
Assignment 2 in class.

Week 10 –Differences Revisited

November 13 – Readings from Susan Wendell “Toward a Feminist Theory of Disability,” *Hypatia*, v. 4, no. 2, 1989: 104-124. (on Brightspace) and “The Fix: One Peel Nursing Home took a Gamble on Fun, Life, and Love” (on Brightspace)

November 15 - Readings from Dean Spade “Mutilating Gender” Spring 2000 (on Brightspace)

Week 11 – Is Ethics Gendered?

November 20 – Readings from Carol Gilligan’s *In a Different Voice*: Letter to Readers (ix-xxvii), Introduction (1-4) and Chapter 2 (on Brightspace).

Assignment topic 3 on the reading for November 22nd on Brightspace Nov 22 by 10 a.m.

November 22 - Readings from Annette Baier’s *Moral Prejudices: Essays on Ethics*, Chapter 2: The Need for More than Justice (on Brightspace)

Assignment 3 in class.

Week 12 – Challenging Norms

November 27 – Readings from Sue Campbell “Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression” *Hypatia*, v. 9, no. 3, 1994: 46-65 (on Brightspace).

Assignment topic 4 on the reading for November 29th on Brightspace Nov 29 by 10 a.m.

November 29 - Readings from bell hooks’ *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, Chapter 4: Sisterhood: Political Solidarity Amongst Women (on Brightspace) and from Patricia Hill Collins’ *Black Feminist Thought*, Chapter 10, “U.S. Black Feminism in Transnational Context” (245-268) (on Brightspace).

Assignment 4 in class.

Week 13 – Struggling and Challenging

December 4 – Readings from Kate Norlock “Perpetual Struggle” *Hypatia* vol. 34, no. 1 (Winter 2019) (on Brightspace).

December 6 – Readings from Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, Conclusion 2: A Killjoy Manifesto.

December 8- Finish up readings – come to class with questions.

FINAL TERM PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 8TH BY 6:00 P.M. “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 (Fall/Winter 2023-24)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](#) website.
- *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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *Survivors of Sexual Violence:* As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

Important Dates:

Sept. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of fall term classes. Classes follow a Monday schedule. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 29	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 10	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Classes follow a Friday schedule. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 11-12	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising
520-7850

Writing Services:
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>
520-3822

MacOdrum Library
<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>
520-2735