

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**PHIL2306 – Feminism and Philosophy**  
Carleton University, Fall/Winter 2013-2014  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:35-3:55pm

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall. Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 1:15-2:00 pm, or by appointment

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### **I - DESCRIPTION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Since the very beginning, philosophy has had a very complex and ambiguous relationship with sexism, androcentrism, and feminism. Indeed, through its capacity to question inherited values and norms, philosophy has played a crucial role in the emergence of feminism (we may think of Plato, Mill, or de Beauvoir for instance). However, despite the emancipatory role it has played, a majority of contemporary feminists seem to agree on the fact that philosophy is probably the most sexist and androcentric of all academic disciplines. Not only is the discipline largely male-dominated, but some of the most influential philosophers of the past have played an instrumental role in the dissemination of sexist ideas and the solidification of androcentrism in Western culture (Aristotle and Nietzsche are good examples).

In this course, we will consider both sides of the dual role played by philosophy in the history of sexism and feminism. We will start with an inquiry into the sources of sexism and androcentrism in ancient Greek philosophy. The major part of the course, however, will be devoted to the efforts deployed by modern feminist philosophers to challenge ideas that support sexism and contribute to the oppression of women. We will focus our attention on themes such as the difference between sex and gender, the gendered nature of knowledge and of values, the impact of philosophical ideas on the way we experience the body and the self as gendered, or the challenge posed by cultural diversity to feminism.

### **II - METHODOLOGY**

The course will consist of lectures and class discussions based on assigned readings. A significant part of the training for this course rests on the attentive reading of the philosophical texts themselves. Students will know in advance which texts to read before class and are expected to be active participants in class discussions. An attempt will be made to have guest lecturers so as to be exposed to a diversity of perspectives.

***Attendance is mandatory! This course gives a lot of importance to participation. If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course. Please do take that into account before signing up.***

You don't need to be trained in philosophy to be successful in this course. All necessary background will be provided in the lectures. Don't be intimidated!

### **III - REQUIRED BOOK**

The following book is available at **Haven Books**, 43 Seneca St. (at Sunnyside), tel: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca:  
*Feminist Theory. A Philosophical Anthology*, Ed. by A.E. Cudd and R. O. Andreasen, Blackwell Publishing, 2005.  
ISBN: 978-1-4051-1661-9 paperback.

### **IV - OUTLINE and CALENDAR:**

*Note: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. If there are modifications to the schedule, you will be notified in class ahead of time.*

**Week 1** (01/06, 08)     *Intro to the course; intro to feminism*

**Week 2** (01/13, 15)     *Sexism and androcentrism in ancient Greek philosophy and ancient culture*  
Reading, optional: PLATO, *Republic* V, 451c-462a (easy to find online).

**Week 3** (01/20, 22)     *The origins of feminism, first wave feminism*

Readings for the Wednesday discussion: M. WOLLSTONECRAFT, 11-16; John Stuart MILL, 17-26,

- Week 4** (01/27, 29) *Second wave feminism*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: Simone de BEAUVOIR: 27-35; Kate MILLETT, 37-55.  
Optional, bell HOOKS 60-68, de BEAUVOIR 383-391.
- Week 5** (02/3, 5) *Sexism and oppression*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: CUDD-JONES 73-83, FRYE 84-90, YOUNG 91-102.  
Optional, BARTKY 105-112
- Week 6** (02/10, 12) *Gender*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: LLOYD 127-143, ANTONY 119-125, BUTLER 145-151.  
Optional: HASLANGER 154-68.
- (02/17-21) *Winter Break; no classes!*
- Week 7** (02/24, 26) *The body*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion (NOT IN THE READER!): Cressida HEYES, 'Foucault goes to Weight Watchers,' *Hypatia*, Volume 21, Number 2, Spring 2006, pp. 126-149 (electronic version available through CU library), Susan BORDO, 'Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture,' *Unbearable Weight. Feminism, Western Culture and the Body*, U. of California Press, 1993, 2003. (Copies will be available at the library reserve and there is a PDF scan available online...)
- Week 8** (03/03, 05) *Knowledge and gender*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: ANDERSON 188-207, HARDING 218-232. Optional: LONGINO 210-217.
- Week 9** (03/10, 12) *Ethics and gender*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: BAIER 243-50, TRONTO 251-260, KITTAY 264-277.  
Optional: HAMPTON 280-298.
- Week 10** (03/17, 19) *Feminism and cultural diversity*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: NUSSBAUM 302-319.
- Week 11** (03/24, 26) *Discrimination, justice, feminist politics*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: MACKINNON 392-399, OKIN 403-412, CORNELL 414-419.
- Week 12** (03/31, 4/2) *Autonomy, the self*  
Readings for the Wednesday discussion: GRIMSHAW 329-337, FRIEDMAN 339-348, ALLEN 352-364, BRISON 365-374.

[04/07 Potential make-up class –will be cancelled if we don't need to make up a class]

**V - COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

- 1- 9 Reading Responses (9 Responses × 7 marks)... 63% (see description below)
- 2- Discussion facilitation: ..... 20%
- 3- Attendance and participation: ..... 17%

### 1- Reading responses: 63%

The nine reading responses aim to ensure you have done the readings and are ready to take an active part in the class discussion. *There will be no make-up for reading responses!!!* Your reading response must be handed in in class (NO E-MAIL SUBMISSION), at the end of each class. This weekly assignment is divided in two parts:

#### Part 1 – Discussion preparation (no more than one page and a half, 4 marks):

In order to prepare for our weekly discussion (on Wednesdays), you will write a *Discussion Preparation Sheet* on the text(s) to be discussed that day. For each text, include the following items:

- 1- Identify the core idea of the text (its objective) and summarize it in no more than four sentences.
- 2- Briefly present one problem with which you were confronted while reading this text (either because an idea was unclear or because you found it disputable).
- 3- Briefly mention one idea that was of special interest to *you* and explain why you found it challenging/stimulating.

#### Part 2 – Diary (no more than a half page, 2 marks):

You are free to write whatever you want in this part (as long as it relates to the readings somehow). If a text had a powerful emotional effect on you, you may share your impressions. If the text reminded you of a concrete situation you witnessed or experienced, you can mention it, you may also try to make sense of your concrete/personal experience by using some of the ideas present in the text(s), or you may offer a philosophical critique of an idea or argument, etc.

### 2- Discussion facilitation: 20%

The Wednesday discussions will involve the whole class—participation to class discussions is essential in this course! However, each week, five students will be in charge of leading/facilitating the discussion. We will use their Reading Responses to get the discussion started. The five students who are in charge of the discussion for a given week should send me their Reading Response via e-mail the previous Sunday. Note: special attention should be paid to that specific Reading Response as it plays a central role in the grade you will get for this part of the course requirement.

### 3- Attendance and class participation: 17%

Attendance marks will be calculated as follows:

- Up to two missed classes: no penalty.
- 3 missed classes: -5%
- 4 missed classes: -10%
- 5 missed classes: -17%

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If you have any **questions or concerns**, do not hesitate to send me an e-mail! E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. Questions received via e-mail will receive quick responses.

\* \* \*

Note: Students who are registered with the **Paul Menton Centre** are responsible for soliciting letters of accommodation and making arrangements in a timely fashion. They **must respect all the deadlines** if they want to be granted special accommodations.

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

### 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/>

**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/>

**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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me 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*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me 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:

Sept. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 18	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. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 –	
Nov. 1	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. 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	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	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. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	Take-home exams are due.

### Addresses:

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