

**Philosophy 2306**  
**Philosophy and Feminism**  
**Professor Christine Koggel**

**Fall 2018: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2:35-3:55**

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:30-1:30 or by appointment

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

***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. THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON cuLEARN***

*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 cuLearn (under ARES)**). 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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) **Assignment 1** due at the end of the **Key Concepts** component (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) no later than at the beginning of the Tuesday class on **September 25<sup>th</sup> (or earlier)**. It will cover the material from the three classes on September 11, 13, and 18. Details on the assignment itself are on the “Class by Class Reading List” below under September 18<sup>th</sup>.  
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, concepts, and issues in the course material that you select to examine.
- 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 9<sup>th</sup>**.
- 3) **Assignment 2** due at the beginning of class on **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. The assignment should be no more than 4 double-spaced pages and no less than 3 double-spaced pages (worth 20% of the final grade). NOTE: The purpose of this assignment is to make you aware of and have you think about contemporary feminist discussions of the relevance of difference(s) to theory and to practice. 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, arguments, and issues in the course material you select to examine.
- 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 no later than **December 7<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### **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 cuLearn**).

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 cuLearn**).

### **Week 3 – Key Concepts**

September 18 - Readings from Johnson's *The Gender Knot*: Chapter 3 (48-72) and Chapter 4 (73-91).

**Assignment 1:** Carefully read and review the readings from Johnson's third edition (2014) of *The Gender Knot* (Chapters 1-4) as well as the readings from Frye's *The Politics of Reality* (Chapters on Oppression and on Sexism) written in 1983. Pick one of the chapters from Johnson's *The Gender Knot* and one of the Chapters from Frye's *The Politics of Reality*. Take a stand on whether changes or 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/or sexism. Make use of at least TWO examples that each author uses to do your analysis of each. You should also review instructions (NOTE) on Assignment 1 as provided in the Course Requirements above. This first assignment is due no later than at the beginning of class on Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. You can hand this assignment in on September 20<sup>th</sup> – if having all the readings fresh in your mind works better for you to complete the assignment earlier. Keep in mind that I expect you to come to class having done the readings for the classes on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **- Historical Roots of Feminism**

September 20 – 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**).

Can hand in Assignment 1 at the beginning of this class.

### **Week 4 – Historical Roots of Feminism**

September 25 - Readings from John Stuart Mill's *The Subjection of Woman*, Chapter 1 (**on cuLearn**).

**Assignment 1 on the readings from the first three classes due no later than the beginning of this class or earlier (no exceptions).**

September 27 - From Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*, Introduction (**on cuLearn**).

### **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 cuLearn**).

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

### **Week 6 –**

October 9 – **Midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-5.**

#### **- Responsibility, Change, and Difference**

October 11 - Readings from *The Gender Knot*, Chapter 9 (195-209) and from Frye’s *The Politics of Reality* “The Arrogant Eye, The Loving Eye, The Beloved” final 3 sections of Chapter called “In and Out of Harm’s Way” (p. 66-83) (**on cuLearn**)

### **Week 7 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference**

October 16 - Readings from Maria Lugones “Playfulness, ‘World’-Travelling, and Loving Perception” *Hypatia*, v. 2, no. 2, 1987: 3-19 (**on cuLearn**)

October 18 – Readings from Marilyn Frye’s *Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism* (The Crossing Press 1992) Chapter “White Woman Feminist” (147-169) (**on cuLearn**) and from Mariana Ortega “Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color,” *Hypatia*, v. 21, no. 3, 2006: 56-74 (**on cuLearn**)

## **FALL BREAK**

### **Week 8 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference**

October 30 – Readings from Uma Narayan “Working Together across Difference”, *Hypatia*, v. 3, no. 2, 1988: 31-47. (**on cuLearn**)

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

### **Week 9 – Differences Revisited**

November 6 - Readings from Susan Wendell “Toward a Feminist Theory of Disability,” *Hypatia*, v. 4, no. 2, 1989: 104-124. (**on cuLearn**) and “The Fix: One Peel Nursing Home took a Gamble on Fun, Life, and Love” (**on cuLearn**)

November 8 - Readings from Dean Spade “Mutilating Gender” Spring 2000 (**on cuLearn**)

### **Week 10 –Differences Revisited: Being Feminist**

November 13 – Readings from Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, Chapters 7 and 8.

**Assignment 2:** Use insights from Chapters 7, 8, and 9 of Ahmed’s book about what it is to live a feminist life to evaluate/comment on/review at least one (and no more than two) of the readings we covered in the classes from October 16 to November 8. You should also review instructions (NOTE) on Assignment 2 as provided in the Course Requirements above.

November 15 - Readings from Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, Chapter 9

**Assignment 2 (above) due at beginning of class.**

### **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 1 (15-23) (**on cuLearn**).

November 22 - Readings from Annette Baier’s *Moral Prejudices: Essays on Ethics*, Chapter 2: The Need for More than Justice (**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 27 – Readings from Charles Mills “‘Ideal Theory’ as Ideology” *Hypatia*, v. 20, no. 3, 2005 (165-184) (**on cuLearn**)

November 29 - Readings from Sue Campbell “Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression” *Hypatia*, v. 9, no. 3, 1994: 46-65 (**on cuLearn**)

### **Week 13 – Feminism and Activism Revisited**

December 4 – Readings from bell hooks’ *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*, Chapter 4: Sisterhood: Political Solidarity Amongst Women (**on cuLearn**)

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

**FINAL TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS OR NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7TH 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.”**

**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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

**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 Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

**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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

**Academic Accommodation:**

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**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/>

**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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 5	Classes start.
Sept. 18	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. 8	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 22-26	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 23	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. 7	Last day of fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 7	Classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 26	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.
Apr. 9	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 12-27	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 19-21	Statutory holiday. University closed. No examinations take place.
Apr. 27	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

**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
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735