

Philosophy 2306
Philosophy and Feminism
Professor Christine Koggel

Fall 2021: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:05-2:25

Location: ONLINE

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 (in-person and virtual)

And by appointment

Room 3A46 Paterson Hall, ext. 3239

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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. You can arrange for Pickup with Haven Bookstore by emailing: havenbooks@cusaonline.ca

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 the Course Outline itself may need to be revised in light of adjustments to the course being online.

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 2021

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is an online course – as are all courses at Carleton in the fall semester with enrollments over 60 students. You will need access to a computer and a reliable/stable connection to the internet. You also need software that allows reading of pdf files and watching the recorded videos. All written assignments must be completed and submitted in **Word documents**.

Classes will be a blend of asynchronous (recorded lectures on Brightspace) and synchronous (live with class time on Brightspace). It is a requirement of the course that you read the readings, watch the lectures, and “attend” the live classes. The “Class-by-Class Reading List” below identifies the readings along with information about whether a particular class will be asynchronous or synchronous. For those classes with recorded lectures, you can watch the lectures at times that suit you best. However, to keep up with the work that needs doing to complete the course and do well, I strongly advise that you watch the lectures in the week within which we cover those readings. Keeping up with the readings and viewing (and reviewing) the recorded lectures is mandatory. Opportunities for class participation (described in 2) below) and information about assignments, and how to complete these (described in 1) below and in the Class-by-Class Reading List) is given just below.

- 1) **Assignments are marked on the Class-by-Class Reading list below.** There will be **THREE** of these. The first is due early and will be worth 10% of the total grade (no more than two double-spaced pages). The second and third will ask you to do more and each will be worth 15% of the total grade (no more than three double-spaced pages each). **The THREE assignments are worth a total of 40% of the final grade.**

These regular assignments on the readings will help ensure that you keep up with the readings, recorded lectures, and live classes. Assignment Topics will be provided in advance through Brightspace. The general task will be to have you summarize the position(s) 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, issues, and arguments **in the readings you are assigned to discuss**. The assignments and their due dates are noted on the “Class-by-Class Reading List” below.

- 2) **Mid-term exam (take-home) worth 15% 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 exam will be available on October 13th and be due on Monday, October 18th, at 12 noon. It can be open book, but my strong advice is to study and then be ready to write the exam by taking no longer than 2 hours. The exam should be no more than a total of 3000 words. I am not looking for length but for concise and precise answers.

- 3) **Class participation (worth 20% 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 20.
- a) Ask questions about a recorded asynchronous lecture(s) by sending an email or posting a comment/question on Brightspace discussion group forum (so that classmates can contribute to answers to the question).
 - b) Answer questions posed in a) on a recorded asynchronous lecture(s).
 - c) Ask questions or contribute to the live/synchronous 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 an “office hour” meeting to talk through an interesting or puzzling reading or an issue or argument discussed in class. You must have done the readings, watched the recorded lecture (asynchronous), or “attended” the class (synchronous) 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 for some of the live-classes.
- 4) **Final term paper** worth 25% of the final grade (about 8 double-spaced pages and no more than 10 double-spaced pages). The term paper covers the material covered in Weeks 10-13. Topics will be provided on Brightspace in advance. The due date is no later than **December 10th** as noted on the “Class-by-Class Reading List” below.

CLASS-BY-CLASS READING LIST

Week 1 - Feminism and Philosophy

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

September 8 - 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

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 2

September 13 - 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**).

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

September 15 - 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

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 3

September 20 - 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**).

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

September 22 – Readings from Anne Fausto-Sterling's *Sexing the Body*, Chapter 4, "Should there be Only Two Sexes?" (78-114) (**on Brightspace**).

First Assignment question on Anne Fausto-Sterling Chapter 4 (topic to be posted on Brightspace). To be submitted on Brightspace in Word document and due no later than Monday, September 27th, by 6 p.m.

Week 4 – Historical Roots of Feminism

Both classes are online recorded lectures for viewing within Week 4

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 Brightspace**).

Assignment 1 on the reading from September 22nd class due no later than 6 p.m. (no exceptions).

September 29 - 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**).

Week 5 – Kinds of Feminism

Both classes online recorded lectures for viewing within Week 5

October 4 – 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 6 – 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 11 – Thanksgiving Holiday. This missed class means we have a class on December 10th.

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

October 13- 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**).

Take home Midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-6. To be submitted on Brightspace and due Monday, October 18th, at 12 noon.

Week 7 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

October 18 – Readings 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 Brightspace**) and from Maria Lugones “Playfulness, ‘World’-Travelling, and Loving Perception” *Hypatia*, v. 2, no. 2, 1987: 3-19 (**on Brightspace**)

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 7

October 20 – Readings from Marilyn Frye’s *Willful Virgin: Essays in Feminism* (The Crossing Press 1992) Chapter “White Woman Feminist” (147-169) (**on Brightspace**)

FALL BREAK

Week 8 – Responsibility, Change, and Difference

Both classes are online recorded lectures for viewing within Week 8

November 1– Readings from Mariana Ortega “Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color,” *Hypatia*, v. 21, no. 3, 2006: 56-74 (**on Brightspace**)

Second Assignment question on Ortega reading. To be submitted on Brightspace in Word document and due no later than Monday, November 8th by 12 noon.

November 3 – Readings from Laurence Thomas “Moral Deference” from *Theorizing Multiculturalism*. (p. 359-381) (**on Brightspace**)

Week 9 – Differences and Being Feminist

Both classes are live on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

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

November 10 - Readings from Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, Chapter 9

Week 10 –Differences Revisited

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 10

November 15 – 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**)

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

November 17 - Readings from Dean Spade “Mutilating Gender” Spring 2000 (**on Brightspace**)
Third Assignment question on Spade reading. To be submitted on Brightspace in Word document and due no later than Monday, November 22nd by 12 noon.

Week 11 – Is Ethics Gendered?

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 11

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 Brightspace**).

Assignment 2 on the reading from November 17 due no later than 12 noon.

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

November 24 - Readings from Annette Baier’s *Moral Prejudices: Essays on Ethics*, Chapter 2: The Need for More than Justice (**on Brightspace**)

Week 12 – Is Ethics Gendered?

Both classes are online recorded lectures for viewing within Week 12

November 29 –Readings from Joan Tronto “Creating Caring Institutions” from *Ethics and Social Welfare* Special Issue *Care Ethics* (**on Brightspace**).

– Challenging Norms

December 1 - Readings from Sue Campbell “Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression” *Hypatia*, v. 9, no. 3, 1994: 46-65 (**on Brightspace**).

Week 13 – Challenging Norms

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

December 6 – Readings from Christine Koggel “Epistemic Injustice in a Settler Nation: Canada’s History of Erasing, Silencing, Marginalizing” *Journal of Global Ethics*, 14 (2), 2018: 240-251 (**on Brightspace**).

Online recorded lecture for viewing within Week 13

December 8 – 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**).

Live class on Brightspace (synchronous with class time)

December 10 - Readings from Sara Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, Conclusion 2: A Killjoy Manifesto.

**FINAL TERM PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10TH 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”**

Because you made it to the end of the syllabus—assuming you have read it well and carefully!-- you get a bonus prize. I like flowers. So, if you follow these instructions perfectly and email a Word Document with your name and your favourite flower on it by September 20th, you get 3% of your grade for free (notice that this was missing from the grade breakdown). What this also means, however, is that I expect you to have read every word on the course outline (whether you get the 3% or not!). So if you email me during the course with a question that is on the syllabus I am allowed to respond with “It’s on the syllabus!”

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2021-22)

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. 8	Classes start.
Sept. 22	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. 11	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 25-29	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 26	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. 10	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</i> 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. 11-23	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. 23	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 10	Classes begin.
Jan. 24	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. 21	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 22-25	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 29	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. 12	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. <i>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</i> 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. 13	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 14-28	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 15	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 28	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