

Philosophy 2306
Philosophy and Feminism
Professor Christine Koggel

Fall 2015: Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:05-2:25

Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:30 or by appointment

Room 3A46 Paterson Hall, ext. 3239

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Classroom Policy: Laptops only, only used for taking notes, and sit at back of class.

REQUIRED TEXTS (CAN BE PURCHASED AT HAVEN BOOKSTORE AT 43 SENECA STREET – CORNER OF SUNNYSIDE AND SENECA)

Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology. Edited by Ann Cudd and Robin Andreasen.
Blackwell Publishing, 2005. (Main text is also on Library reserve.)

There are additional readings **posted on cuLearn** and noted in “Class by Class Reading list”. Please note that material may be changed or added. You will be given advance warning on this.

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 begin by reviewing some of this 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 more 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 and to issues in the contemporary global context.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Two (2) short assignments (no longer than 3 double spaced pages) on the readings (each worth 10% for a total of 20% of the final grade).

Assignment due dates and topics are noted in the “Class by Class Reading List” below (you must do **2 out of the 3**). All assignments must be handed in at the **beginning of class**. For each assignment, you can select to hand it in EITHER at the beginning of the class for which the

readings are assigned OR at the beginning of the class immediately following that class. I will be a bit more lenient in the grading of the former as you will be working on material we have not yet discussed in class.

These two short assignments serve several purposes: they help with the crucial task of having you do the readings and be in class; they allow you to think through and assimilate feedback on your work, and they are aids in the development of skills of argumentation and evaluation that will help you in writing the in-class mid-term exam and the final term paper (described under 3 and 5). For my part, I provide comments that identify places where your interpretation does not fit with the text; you do not back up your interpretation with support from the text; you fail to grasp key points and/or arguments made by the author; you are too brief in your summary and/or analysis; you summarize too much of the detail of the readings rather than focus on the assignment question; or you show a carelessness in grammatical presentation that gets in the way of understanding your answer(s) to the assignment question(s).

2) This requirement is called **“Taken from the Headlines.”** You will hand in the news item(s) along with no more than 3 double spaced pages of your analysis (worth 15% of the final grade).

At the same time as we are doing the readings and class lectures in the first three weeks, you will be paying attention to and selecting news items that challenge, contradict, or even agree with what authors from our readings in Weeks 1-3 say that feminism is about.

The idea for this assignment is that you select and do an analysis of **at least one and no more than two** news stories that capture, whether explicitly or implicitly, a misunderstanding, a misrepresentation, a caricature or stereotype, and/or an accurate reflection of feminism and/or feminists. The news story must be from a newspaper (online or hard copy!) or from a news show that has a printed online version of the news item (not just remembered from watching it on TV or reading it online!). You need to print and attach the news story along with your discussion and analysis that connects the news stories to **one and no more than two** readings and explains how the stories misrepresent, misunderstand, or reflect aspects of feminism as discussed in the reading(s).

The purpose of this assignment is to make you alert to media representations of feminism and to allow you to apply insights from the readings in the first three weeks as a way to discuss and analyze the news items. You need not summarize ALL aspects of the news stories or of the reading(s). You should select points from each to do a comparison and analysis. The goal of this requirement is to help you develop a critical eye in reading news items and be able to connect what is covered in the news items with the philosophical arguments we cover in class.

You must attach the printed news stories to your short assignment and hand these in no later than at the **beginning** of the Monday class on September 21st.

3) Mid-term exam (1.5 hours) worth 25% of the final grade. The exam will be on the readings on material covered in Weeks 1-6 and on the class lectures and discussion of this material.

4) Class attendance (mandatory) and participation (worth 15% of the final grade).

5) Final term paper worth 25% of the final grade (about 8-9 double spaced pages). The term paper covers the practical issues material from Weeks 7-13 (material after the Mid-term Exam). Topics will be handed out in advance. The due date is noted on the “Class by Class Reading List” below.

CLASS BY CLASS READING LIST

Week 1 - What is Feminism?

September 2 - Introduction to the course.

September 4 (Friday class to replace class on September 7 – Labour Day)

Readings from *Feminist Theory*: Introduction (1-4); Introduction to Part I (7-9) and Mary Wollstonecraft (11-16).

Week 2 – What is Feminism?

September 9 - Readings from *Feminist Theory* from Part I, John Stuart Mill (17-26).

Week 3 – What is Feminism?

September 14 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part I, Simone de Beauvoir (27-36) and from Part VII, Simone de Beauvoir (383-391).

September 16 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part I, Kate Millett (37-59).

Week 4 – What is Feminism?

September 21 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part I, bell hooks (60-68).

“Taken from the Headlines” assignment due at beginning of class.

- What is Sexism?

September 23 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part II, Introduction to Part II (71-72) and Ann Cudd and Leslie E. Jones (73-83).

Week 5 - What is Sexism?

September 28 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part II, Marilyn Frye “Oppression” (84-90) and Marilyn Frye “Sexism” (**posted on cuLearn**).

September 30 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part II, Iris Marion Young (91-104).

Week 6 – What is Sexism?

October 5 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part II, Sandra Bartky (105-113).

October 7 – **Midterm exam on readings from Weeks 1-6.**

Week 7 – What is Gender?

October 12 – Thanksgiving holiday – no class.

October 14 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part III, Introduction (117-118) and Elisabeth Lloyd (119-126).

Week 8 – What is Gender?

October 19 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part III, Louise Antony (127-144).

October 21 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part III, Sally Haslanger (154-170).

ASSIGNMENT #1

Assignment Topic: Haslanger frames her project as a *critical analytical* effort to answer the questions: ‘What is gender?’, ‘What is race?’, and the related questions ‘What is it to be a man?’ ‘...a woman?’ ‘... White?’ ‘...Latino?’, etc. According to Haslanger, why is this kind of project important? What are some of the key lessons you learned from her critical analytical approach.

FALL BREAK

Week 9 – Gender and Knowledge

November 2 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part III, Judith Butler (145-153) and by Maria Lugones “Playfulness, ‘World’-Travelling, and Loving Perception” *Hypatia*, v. 2, no. 2, 1987: 3-19 (**posted on cuLearn**)

November 4 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part IV, Introduction (172-175) and Genevieve Lloyd (177-187)

ASSIGNMENT #2

Assignment Topic: Lloyd writes that “the creature I am calling the Man of Reason embodies some of the fundamental ideals of our culture” (177). Use examples to outline and explain how Lloyd supports this argument.

Week 10 – Is Knowledge Gendered?

November 9 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part IV, Helen Longino (210-217).

November 11 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part IV, Sandra Harding (218-236).

Week 11 – Is Value Gendered?

November 16 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part V, Introduction (239-241) and Annette Baier (243-250).

ASSIGNMENT #3

Assignment Topic: According to Baier, in what ways does reasoning about moral problems in terms of relationships and an interconnection with others challenge what she refers to as “the individualism of the Western tradition”?

November 18 - Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part V, Joan Tronto (251-263) and Joan Tronto “Creating Caring Institutions” from *Ethics and Social Welfare* Special Issue *Care Ethics* (posted on cuLearn).

Week 12 – Is Value Gendered?

November 23 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part V, Martha Nussbaum (302-324).

- **What is a Self?**

November 25 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part VI, Anita Allen (352-364) and Susan Brison (365-376).

Week 13 – Liberation and the Global Context?

November 30 – Readings from *Feminist Theory*, from Part VII, Susan Moller Okin (403-413).

December 2 – Readings from Mohanty’s *Feminism Without Borders*. Chapter 1, “Under Western Eyes Revisited” (posted on cuLearn).

Week 14 – Liberation and the Global Context?

December 7 - Finish Okin and Mohanty from November 30 and December 2 readings.

FINAL TERM PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 7TH BY 4:15 P.M. (FLOOR 3A AS PER INSTRUCTIONS UNDER DEPARTMENT POLICIES). 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.”

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

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:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

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 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/>

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 scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor 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. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
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. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	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. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
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. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 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
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735