

PSCI 3303 A
Feminist Political Theory
Tuesdays, 11:35–14:25
Confirm Location on Carleton Central
While in-person classes at Carleton are suspended because of COVID-19, this course will meet in a synchronous online format via Zoom. Please find access information on Brightspace.

Instructor: Amanda Roberts
Online Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 am to 12 pm via BigBlueButton on Brightspace
Email: amanda.roberts@carleton.ca

Course Description

This course examines some of the key concepts, approaches, and debates in the feminist political theory. It is an introduction to the ideas, debates, and authors that have influenced and helped shape the field and movements. Together we will visit questions of inclusion and exclusion, how we construct women as a category (and whether such a category is possible or desirable). With an intersectional and anti-oppressive focus, we will challenge conceptualizations of a homogenous category of women with an analysis of gendered and racialized labour, how race is constructed, and feminism's history of exclusion and colonial violence.

Together we will explore multiculturalism, queer and trans* feminisms, indigenous feminisms, intersectionality, masculinities, and more.

Course Format

This is a **synchronous** course. We will gather on campus for scheduled sessions in person. Students are expected to adhere to public health guidelines as well as regulations set by Carleton University. Please note that, depending on public health conditions with the COVID-19 pandemic, this course may need to be adapted to an online format.

This course will be run as a combination between a lecture and a seminar. Each class will begin with a short lecture to highlight key concepts and themes from the readings. The lecture will be followed by a primarily student-led discussion. Students are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss the readings.

Brightspace & Carleton Email: You are responsible for checking your Carleton Email account and Brightspace regularly (~2 times per week) for updates.

Office Hours: I will hold office hours **online** via BigBlueButton (link on Brightspace) every **Wednesday from 10am to 12pm.** Office hours are a time for students to meet with me to discuss any questions, or to get extra help or clarification. If my set office hours do not work for you, please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will meet at a time that better suits your schedule.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Carefully read scholarly articles.
- Summarize some of the key debates in feminist political thought.
- Critique and analyze scholarly articles as well as mainstream media.
- Describe key concepts as they have evolved throughout feminist theory.
- Develop an argument and use academic sources to substantiate it.
- Compose thoughtful questions to stimulate class discussion.

Required Texts

There is no required text for you to purchase for this class. All readings will be available on Brightspace via MacOdrum Library's electronic reserves system, ARES, or on the course Brightspace page. You can find the link on the course Brightspace page.

Course Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	% of Final Grade
Class Discussion Questions	**Rotating weekly – signup on Brightspace**	**10%**
Participation in Class Discussions	**Weekly, ongoing**	**10%**
Critical Review	**February 1, 2022**	**15%**
Research Paper Consultation (optional)	**March 8—9, 2022 – signup on Brightspace**	**2% (bonus, optional)**
Research Paper Outline	**March 15, 2022**	**15%**

Research Paper	**April 12, 2022**	**25%**
Take Home Exam	**April 28, 2022 (Last day of exams)**	**25%**

Class Discussion Questions (10%) – Rotating Weekly, sign up for a week on Brightspace
Each week of class, at least one student will be responsible for preparing 2 to 3 questions based on the week's readings to stimulate class discussion. Students are expected to sign up for their preferred week with the link on Brightspace.

Participation in Class Discussions (10%) – Weekly, ongoing
Participation in class discussions is an important element of this course as it gives you an opportunity to engage with the readings and lecture material critically. It also gives us the opportunity to learn from one another. You will get out of this class as much as you put into it. Students are expected to attend class having completed the mandatory readings, prepare questions or comments, and contribute actively and respectfully to the discussion with their classmates.

Critical Review (15%) – due February 1, 2022
You will be asked to choose an assigned reading from the syllabus that we have covered so far to write a 4-page (minimum 3 pages, maximum 5 pages, double spaced, standard margins) critical review. A critical review consists of a short introduction, a summary of the article's main arguments and important points, your analysis of the arguments (tell me what its strengths and weaknesses are), and a brief conclusion. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace. Grades and comments will be returned to you there as well.

Research Paper Consultations (2% bonus, optional) – March 8 and 9, 2022
There will be no class held on March 8th. Students have the option of attending a (virtual) research paper consultation with the course instructor. These consultations will be held in lieu of regular class on March 8th, and during office hours on March 9th. Please bring any ideas, questions, or concerns to this consultation, and your instructor can help you work through them and suggest possible areas of research. There is no assigned reading. Instead, students are encouraged to use this time to continue working on their research paper outlines.

Research Paper Outline (15%) – due March 15, 2022
For the final essay, you will be asked to choose a TV show, movie, book, or other piece of media from pop culture as your "case study" and analyze your chosen case using concepts from feminist theory. Your final paper will be 15 pages (minimum 14 pages, maximum 16 pages, double spaced, standard margins) but your outline should be approximately 3 pages.

The final paper outline is the "skeleton" of your essay. It is an opportunity for you to get started on planning your topic, thesis, and arguments, and get some feedback to help shape the final project. Your outline must contain: your chosen TV show/movie/book/etc, the feminist concepts and books/articles you plan to use, your thesis (which argues for a particular interpretation), and

the key points that will make up your body paragraphs. You are encouraged to use course readings as a starting point, and conduct additional research on your theoretical concepts of choice. Additional instructions and template will be posted on Brightspace closer to the due date. The outline will be graded primarily based on content and citations.

Research Paper (30%) – due April 12, 2022

For the final draft based on your research paper outline, you will use the feedback from your outline to modify and/or refine your argument for the final project. Your final essay **must contain a thesis that argues for a particular position.** Additional instructions will be posted on Brightspace and reviewed in class closer to the due date. This paper will be graded based on content as well as presentation (grammar, citations, etc) and is to be submitted via Brightspace. Grades and comments will be returned to you there as well.

Take-Home Exam (25%) – Due April 28th, 2022 (Last day of exam period)

In this take-home examination, you will be asked to answer a series of short answer questions – some of which will be comparative in nature – and essay questions on the key themes and readings covered in the course. More information, including due date and other instructions, will be posted on Brightspace.

Course Policies

Privacy: Students should not have the expectation of privacy when using Brightspace. As an instructor, I can see all of your activity on Brightspace – how often you sign in, which pages and documents you open, how long you spend on any page/activity/document, etc.

Carleton Email Accounts: When communicating with your instructor and TAs, you **must** use your Carleton Email account. Please put the course code in the subject line of the email. You can expect a reply from me within 48 hours (excluding weekends).

Questions: Please reserve email for personal questions (questions regarding your specific situation). If you have a question about course content or logistics/administration, chances are your classmates may have the same question and may find my answer useful. Please use the "Ask Your Instructor" discussion forum on Brightspace for these kinds of general questions.

Late Papers & Extensions: Please contact me **as soon as possible** if you are experiencing a (physical or mental) health-related problem and require accommodations for coursework. Extensions will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Late papers will be penalized by **4% per day including weekends** unless you have contacted me in advance with a legitimate reason for being late. Without an extension, late assignments will not be accepted more than **seven days** after the original deadline.

Course Schedule & Readings

Wk #	Date	Theme, Readings, Notes
1	January 11	Introduction

		Required reading: • Syllabus
2	January 18	Canon Fodder: Feminist Theory and Political Theory • Weiss, Penny A. "The Politics of the Canon: Gatekeepers and Gate-Crashers." In *Canon Fodder*: *Historical Women Political Thinkers*, 3–29. Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. • Wollestonecraft, Mary. Vindication of the Rights of Women. Dedication & Introduction. (~10 pages) • Total: ~35 pages
3	January 25	Conceptualizing Gender I: Feminist Theory on Labour • Kuhn, Annette, and Annmarie Wolpe. "Feminism and materialism." In *Feminism and Materialism Women and Modes of Production,* 1-10. Taylor and Francis, 2013. • Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. "The International Division of Reproductive Labor." In *Servants of Globalization: Women, Migration, and Domestic Work,* 28–52. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2001. • Total: ~34 pages
4	February 1	Conceptualizing Gender II: Women as a Category? ****Critical Review (15%) due** • Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." In *Gender Trouble,* 1–33. New York: Routledge, 1999. • Young, Iris Marion. "Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective." *Signs* 19, no. 3 (Spring 1994): 713–738. • Total: ~57 pages
5	February 8	Constructing Difference: Race • hooks, bell. "Racism: Naming What Hurts," in *Writing Beyond Race,* 9–25. New York: Routledge, 2013. • Lorde, Audre. "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House," in *Sister Outsider,* 110–114. Trumansburg: Crossing Press, 1984. • Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "The First White President." The Atlantic, October 2017. https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/10/the-first-white-president-ta-nehisi-coates/537909/ (~29 pages) • Total: ~49 pages
6	February 15	Intersectionality • Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I A Woman?" Transcribed by Marius Robinson, 1851. *The Sojourner Truth Project.* https://www.thesojournertruthproject.com/compare-the-speeches/.

		• Crenshaw, Kimberlé W. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *University of Chicago Legal Forum*: 139 (1989): 139–167. • Garry, Ann. "Intersectionality, Metaphors, and the Multiplicity of Gender." *Hypatia* 26 no. 4 (Fall 2011): 826–850. • Total: ~55 pages
7	March 1	Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, Native Feminisms • Coulthard, Glen. "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the Politics of Recognition in Canada." *Contemporary Political Theory* 6 no. 4 (2007): 437–460. • Simpson, Audra. "The State is a Man: Theresa Spence, Loretta Saunders and the Gender of Settler Sovereignty." *Theory & Event* 19 no. 4 (2016). • Total: ~40 pages
8	March 8 - 9	Research Paper Consultations • Students are expected to sign up for a brief virtual consultation with the instructor either during regular class hours on March 8 or during office hours on March 9. • There are no assigned readings for this week. Please use this time to work on outlines for the final research paper.
9	March 15	Postcolonial and Decolonial Feminisms **** Research Paper Outline (15%) due** • Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses." in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, edited by Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres, 51–75. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991. • McClintock, Anne. *"*The Lay of the Land: Genealogies of Imperialism." in *Imperial Leather,* 1–17. New York: Routledge, 1995. • McClintock, Anne. "Soft Soaping an Empire." In *Imperial Leather*, 207-230. • Total: ~63 pages
10	March 22	Feminism and Multiculturalism • Okin, Susan Moller. "Feminism and Multiculturalism: Some Tensions." *Ethics* 108 no. 4 (1998): 661–684. • Narayan, Uma. "Minds of their Own: Choices, Autonomy, Cultural Practices, and Other Women," in *A Mind of One's Own: Feminist Essays on Reason and Objectivity,* edited by L.M. Antony and C. Witt, 418–432. Cambridge: Westview Press.

		• Total: ~37 pages
11	March 29	Queer and Trans* Feminisms • Marinucci, Mimi. "Notes Toward a Queer Feminism" in *Feminism is Queer: the intimate connection between queer and feminist theory,* 139–152. Zed Books, 2016. • Krell, Elías Cosenza. "Is Transmisogyny Killing Trans Women of Color?: Black Trans Feminisms and the Exigencies of White Femininity." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 4, no. 2 (May 2017): 226–242. • Hird, Myra J. "Naturally Queer." *Feminist Theory* 5 no. 1 (2004): 85–89. • Total: ~34 pages
12	April 5	Masculinities • Connell, Raewyn. "Masculinities in Global Perspective: Hegemony, Contestation and Changing Structures of Power." *Theory and Society* 45 no. 4 (2016): 303–318. • Connell, R.W. and James M. Messerschnimidt. "Hegemonic Masculinity: Rethinking the Concept." *Gender and Society* 19 no. 6 (December 2005): 829–859. • Total: ~45 pages
13	April 12	Conclusions & Exam Review ****Research Paper (25%) due**
	April 28	***** Take Home Exam (25%) due**

Appendix

Covid-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) When accessing campus you much fill in the COVID-19 Screening Self-Assessment in cuScreen each day before coming to campus. You must also check-in to your final destination (where you plan on being longer than 15 minutes) within a building using the QR location code.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory symptom reporting tool. For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the COVID-19 website.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits,

designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the University's COVID-19 webpage and review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy. Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Requests for 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 accommodation: 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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Religious accommodation: 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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: 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 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, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit carleton.ca/pmc.

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 engage in student activities 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.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. 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.

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional 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, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, 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 which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/.

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

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

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

Carleton Political Science Society

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic

engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.