

11:30-12:45
Wadsworth 21
PHIS 204
Philosophy of Woman

Feminism, Character, and Identity

Instructor: Heidi Savage
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This is an introduction to various historical and contemporary feminist philosophies and to issues of special importance to feminist philosophers. The course will introduce students to several historical movements in feminist philosophy known as first-wave, second-wave and third-wave feminism. In so doing, students will also be introduced to alternative feminist philosophies. The course will also involve studying feminist perspectives on personal identity and oppression, as well as feminist perspectives on the nature of morality. In the course, students will read several scholars on these topics as well as examine literature that incorporates feminist themes. Some of the scholars will include Wollstonecraft, Cady Stanton, Beauvoir, Nussbaum, Truth, Card, Meyers, Brison, Frye, and Calhoun. The works of literature students will be asked to read include works by Atwood, Dorfman, and Gilman.

Students will be asked (1) to attend classes, and to participate in those classes (2) to read substantial selections from the assigned authors, (3) to write two tests over the semester one occurring on **Mar 7th** and the second occurring on **May 9th** (4) to write two critical analyses the due date for which depends upon your chosen topic.

At the beginning of the semester, you will choose two topics from those covered in the course on which you will write your short four page critical analyses. The due date for these analyses will be determined by the course schedule. An assignment sign-up sheet will be distributed during the first week of class.

Each test will count for 20% of your final grade, as will each critical analysis. The rest of your grade will be determined by your participation in the class the form of which you will choose at the beginning of the semester. This will include choosing one form of participation from each of the two following categories:

Classroom participation

Leading one class discussion
Providing summary notes and questions for one class (requires instructor's permission)

Individual participation

Participating in an online discussion at least once
Attending office hours for an in-depth discussion at least once (requires instructor's permission)

Missed exams will be excused only if there is a good reason presented to the instructor within a reasonable period of time and arrangements to take the missed test are made within a week of the official testing date. Written assignments without a good reason for being late will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day late. Whether you have a good reason for missing any of your deadlines will be assessed on a case by case basis.

On participation: Doing philosophy requires that you engage in debate. To facilitate this, you will be expected to ask questions during class. Be prepared to come to classes with a question or comment about the readings. This, of course, requires that you do the readings, and I will assume that you have done so in lectures.

You are highly encouraged to work collaboratively with me on your written work. If you would like to submit drafts, please do so 10 days before the official deadline.

Additionally, any students receiving an A-range grade may have their work distributed to their fellow classmates in an anonymous form. If you do not wish this, please get in touch with me via email to ensure your work is not distributed to the other students in the class.

Texts

Schneir, *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings*, Vintage.
Nicholson, *The Second-Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*, Routledge
Card, *Feminist Ethics*, University Press of Kansas.
Card, *On Feminist Ethics and Politics*, University Press of Kansas.
Meyers, *Feminists Rethink the Self*, Westview Press.
Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (available online)
Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden*, Penguin Plays.
Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, Houghton Mifflin.

(Supplemental readings that do not appear in the text will be provided electronically)

Class Schedule*

Weeks 1-3

Feminism: The First Wave

Wollstonecraft (from Schneir)
Truth (from Schneir)
Cady Stanton (from Schneir)
Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper" (online)
Anthony (from Schneir)
Woolf (from Schneir)

Weeks 4-7

Feminism: The Second Wave

Beauvoir (from Nicholson)
Firestone (from Nicholson)
Rubin (from Nicholson)
Hartmann (from Nicholson)
MacKinnon (from Nicholson)
Alcoff (from Nicholson)
Atwood

Weeks 8-10**Feminism: The Third Wave**

Frye "Oppression" (online)

Lugones (from Card FE)

Pierce (from Card FE)

Jaggar (from Card FE)

Stubblefield (from Card FEP)

Friedman (from Meyers)

Scheman (from Meyers)

Weeks 11-15**Feminism, Identity, and Moral Character**

Brison (from Meyers)

Walker (from Meyers)

Allen (from Meyers)

Dorfman

McFall (from Card FE)

Davion (from Card FE)

Calhoun (from Card FEP)

* Reading schedule is approximate and may change over the semester. There will be supplemental readings from women's literature provided over the semester as well.