

SYLLABUS

PHI 189D (Topics in Ethics): Feminist Analytic Philosophy

Lecture: TR 1:40 – 3:00, Wellman 233

Professor Marina Oshana: moshana@ucdavis.edu

Office: 2289 Social Science and Humanities Bldg.

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 – 12:00 noon, and by appointment.

SmartSite: <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/xsl-portal/site/feministanalyticethics>

Course description

Analytic feminist philosophy uses the philosopher's tool-kit of truth, logical consistency, objectivity, and rationality in tackling problems in a range of philosophical areas (ethics, political philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, and philosophy of science) while addressing the fact that the tool-kit has historically been warped by a masculine point of view.

Texts: Copies of readings will also be posted on SmartSite.

Selections from *Out from the Shadows: Analytical Feminist Contributions to Traditional Philosophy*, eds. Sharon L. Crasnow and Anita M. Superson (Oxford University Press, USA, 2012). Hereafter abbreviated as *OFS*.

Selections from *Setting the Moral Compass: Essays by Women Philosophers*, ed. Cheshire Calhoun (Oxford University Press, USA, 2003). Hereafter abbreviated as *SMC*.

Possible selections from *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology*, eds. Ann Cudd and Robin Andreasen (Wiley-Blackwell, 2005). On reserve at Shields Library.

Course requirements:

Two papers (3 – 5 pages); essay final examination, discussion on SmartSite Forum. College level compositional skills are assumed. Because I cannot predict the precise amount of time we will spend on a given reading assignment, please make it your responsibility to be informed and up-to-date regarding the assignments and class discussion. The best way to do this is by attending class.

Grade distribution:

Papers: 25% of grade each. Final exam: 30% of grade. Weekly discussions on SmartSite Forum: 20%.

Class conduct: I do not appreciate disruptions to the class. Please turn off cell phones. Do not use social media in class. Try not to arrive late or leave early. (Note: I consider sleeping in class a disruption.)

Grading policy:

All assignments must be completed on time; there is no provision for make-up assignments.

There is no provision for extra credit. No papers will be accepted after the due date.

Rescheduling of exams and assignments will be permitted only for reasons that I determine are

compelling. **Examples:** A documented death in the family or a serious illness constitutes a compelling reason. Traveling with a sports team, or having a conflict in your schedule, or missing the bus is not a compelling reason.

Assignments may be submitted early. Failure to turn in a paper in class on its due date will result in a grade of “F” for that assignment. Do not use *Wikipedia* as a research source.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism on any paper will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course.

Schedule is tentative and subject to change. Please keep apprised of the schedule by coming to class. If you miss a class, or simply find the lecture, discussion, or reading unclear *please come see me. You have both a right and a responsibility to understand what is going on!*

Week 1: What is Analytic Feminist Philosophy?

4/2: Introduction

4/4: No class; Professor out of town.

Read Ann Cudd, “Analytic Feminism: A Brief Introduction,” *Hypatia*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Analytic Feminism (Summer, 1995), pp. 1-6

Anita Superson, “Strategies for Making Feminist Philosophy Mainstream Philosophy,” *Hypatia* vol. 26, no. 2 (Spring, 2011), pp. 410 – 418.

!!! Discussion on SmartSite Forum is still required.

Week 2

4/9: Discussion of Cudd and Superson articles.

4/11: Moral Epistemology

Heidi Grasswick, “Knowing Moral Agents,” in *OFS*.

Week 3: Moral Epistemology, continued. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 4/17 AT 7:00 PM

4/16: Karen Jones, “Emotional Rationality as Practical Rationality,” in *SMC*.

4/18: Discussion of Grasswick and Jones articles. *1st paper due on Friday, 4/19 on SmartSite.*

Week 4: Agency and Responsibility TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 4/26 AT 7:00 PM

4/23: Anita Superson, “The Deferential Wife Revisited: Agency and Moral Responsibility,” *Hypatia* vol. 25, no. 2 (Spring, 2010), pp. 253 - 275

4/25: Andrea Westlund, “Autonomy in Relation,” in *OFS*.

Week 5: Our Moral Framework I. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 5/3 AT 7:00 PM

4/30: Discussion of feminist accounts of agency.

5/2: Cheshire Calhoun, “Common Decency,” in *SMC*

Week 6: Our Moral Framework, continued. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 5/10 AT 7:00 PM

5/7: Miranda Fricker, “Silence and Institutional Prejudice,” in *OFS*.

5/9: No class; I have a doctor’s appointment.

!!! Discussion on SmartSite Forum is still required.

Week 7: Our Moral Framework, continued. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 5/17 AT 7:00 PM
5/14: Michele Moody-Adams, "The Idea of Moral Progress," in *SMC*.
5/16: Discussion of feminist accounts of our moral framework. *2nd paper due Monday, 5/20, on SmartSite*

Week 8: Social and Political Concerns. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 5/24 AT 7:00 PM
5/21: Martha Nussbaum, "The Future of Feminist Liberalism," in *SMC*.
5/23: Marilyn Friedman, "Diversity, Trust, and Moral Understanding," in *SMC*.

Week 9: Social and Political Concerns, continued. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 5/31 AT 7:00 PM
5/28: Uma Narayan, "Contesting Cultures," in *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism* (New York: Routledge, 1997). On SmartSite.
5/30: Alison Jagger, "Globalizing Feminist Ethics," in *SMC*.

Week 10: Social and Political Concerns, continued. TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 6/7 AT 7:00 PM
6/4: Discussion of feminist accounts of socio-political issues.
6/6: Ann Cudd, "Resistance is (not) Futile," in *OFS*.

Last Forum (#10): Questions and Study Group

This is your opportunity to have a study group for the final exam! TOPIC WILL BE LOCKED ON 6/10 AT 7:00 PM

Final Exam: Tuesday, June 11, 8:00 – 10:00 am