

Spring 2013
PHIL 456/01 WGST 435/01: Feminist Ethics
MWF 1:10-2:00
College Hall 244

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Description of Course: This course in feminist ethics will begin by offering some historical context for this ethical theory and examining how and why the theory developed. This will serve to situate feminist ethics within feminist philosophy, women's studies and philosophy more generally. We will then consider theoretical issues including methodology, moral agency and the viability of care as the alternative to justice in moral orientation. This will provide the needed tools for examining and evaluating the feminist ethical theory or a particular philosopher.

Course Goals: Course goals include reflection on the bases for morality, whether or not gender or socialization play any role in those bases and an appreciation of the contribution of women and their experience to moral theory. Additionally critical reasoning skills and writing skills will continue to be honed.

Texts/ Course Materials:

Texts: Tronto, Joan. *Moral Boundaries*. Routledge, 1993.
Several readings will be located on Blackboard.

Course Materials:

There is a Blackboard site for this course. Check it at least once a week. Important class updates, assignments and materials will be posted there. Several readings will be posted on the site as well.

Course Requirements:

A. Attendance and Participation – Regular class attendance is required for successful learning. This course will include extensive class discussion. Your regular participation is needed. Further, there is no way to “make up” class discussion, and so, there is no substitute for your attendance. Attendance will be taken. If you sleep, do the crossword puzzle or sudoku, read for another class or other material, text message or use the internet, etc., you will be counted absent for the day. Remember that missing 300 class minutes can result in a grade of “V” for the course.

B. Classroom Behavior – Proper classroom behavior is essential. I expect that there will be respect in discussion, including, but not limited to, talking in turn, not talking when others are talking, and no attacks of a personal nature. Further, I expect that you will turn off your cell phones, etc.—this means no text messaging, etc., is allowed in class. Phones must be put away (i.e., not left on the desk top) during class. Tablets and computers may be used during class for readings, but only for this purpose. Other uses will result in the absentee penalty as discussed in A above. Additionally, coming to class on time and not packing up to leave until class is actually over is required to be respectful of all members of the class,

professor included. Do not leave class in the middle unless it is for an emergency. If tardiness becomes an issue for the class, we will address it formally.

C. Papers – There will be three kinds of papers for this course. There will be a paper on Joan Tronto’s book, a paper on a feminist ethics topic of your choosing and a reflection and analysis on a film we watch in class. More information on all types of papers will be provided on the class blackboard site as the due dates approach. All papers will need to be submitted both in hard copy in class and through the turn-it-in link that will be provided on the class’s Blackboard site. Papers not turn in to turn-it-in will be docked one full letter grade. Late papers will be docked 1 point for each 24 hour period they are late.

D. Group Presentations – All students will be required to give a presentation, in groups, on a feminist ethics topic. There will be some flexibility on topics for the presentations. You may work in groups no smaller than two no larger than four. I strongly encourage students to meet with me about their presentation in advance. I will make sure that all students are in a group and I have the topics they intend to cover in advance of scheduling the presentation on one class day indicated on the syllabus. More information about the presentations will be provided on Blackboard.

E. Exam – There will be a take home final exam for this course due at the regularly scheduled exam time. Questions will be distributed before hand and the exam will contain all the necessary information for it completion and submission. It is worth 30 points.

F. Academic honesty – Academic dishonesty is a serious issue that all students and faculty must address. Academic dishonesty is an embarrassment and an insult to the guilty party and the members of the class, including the professor, and to the university. See the Gonzaga University policy at <http://www.gonzaga.edu/Student-Life/Student-Handbook/files/Academics.pdf>. It specifies that “academic dishonesty consists of any of the following activities ... cheating, fabrication, plagiarism and facilitating academic dishonesty.” It also specifies that “academic dishonesty is an attempt to deceive, to distort someone’s perception of reality, in order to gain a record of academic accomplishment greater than deserved,” which should help distinguish what kinds of things are considered academic dishonesty.

Possible faculty actions in a case of suspected academic dishonesty include from the most mild, a simple reprimand, to the most severe, a grade of F for the course and/or a referral of the charges to the dean of the college. My own feelings on the subject are that the penalty for any breach of academic conduct must be severe. While there are occasionally mitigating circumstances and gradations of the severity of the incident, the *minimum* penalty you should expect is a grade of F on the assignment in question.

Plagiarism in particular is easier to commit and easier to catch with the pervasiveness of the internet. If you have questions about citing sources, what sources are acceptable, how to paraphrase, etc., ask sooner rather than later to avoid potential problems.

Grades will be calculated out of 100%. No extra credit assignments will be given. Do not ask for one.

Tentative Schedule:

Date	Topic	Assignments
Jan 15	Review Syllabus, introduce topics, discuss assignments Locate Feminist Ethics in the wider philosophical discourse	

Jan 18	Women and Theory Flax, Jane. "Women Do Theory" Ginzberg, Ruth. "Philosophy is Not a Luxury"	On Blackboard
Jan 21	No Classes – MLK Day	
Jan 23	Beginnings of Feminist Ethics Gilligan, Carol. "Moral Orientation and Moral Development"	On Blackboard
Jan 25	A Feminist Ethical Theory Tronto, <i>Moral Boundaries</i> , Ch 1	Tronto
Jan 28	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 2	Tronto
Jan 30	Interlude Baier, Annette. "The Need for More than Justice."	On Blackboard
Feb 1	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 3	Tronto
Feb 4	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 3, cont.	Tronto
Feb 6	Interlude Gilligan and Attanucci, "Two Moral Orientations."	On Blackboard
Feb 8	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 4	Tronto
Feb 11	Interlude Held, Virginia. "Taking Care"	On Blackboard
Feb 13	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 5	Tronto
Feb 15	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 5, cont.	Tronto
Feb 18	President's Day – No Classes	
Feb 20	Interlude Tronto, Joan. "Women and Caring"	NB: This is an article on Blackboard, not a chapter of our main text.

Feb 22	Interlude Jaggar, Alison. "Caring as a Feminist Practice of Moral Reason."	On Blackboard
Feb 25	A Feminist Ethical Theory, cont. Tronto, Ch. 6	Tronto
Feb 27	Interlude Kay, Judith. "Politics without Human Nature?"	On Blackboard
Mar 1	Catch Up Day	
Mar 4	Movie Week (Film to be determined)	Tronto Paper Due
Mar 6	Movie, cont.	
Mar 8	Movie, cont.	
March 11-15	No Classes – Spring Break	
March 18	Topics in Feminist Ethics--Trust Selections from Baier, Annette. <i>Moral Prejudices</i> . "Trust and Its Vulnerabilities"	On Blackboard
March 20	Topics in Feminist Ethics--Trust Selections from Baier, Annette. <i>Moral Prejudices</i> . "Sustaining Trust."	On Blackboard Movie Reflection and Analysis Due
March 22	Topics in Feminist Ethics--Trust Cases	
March 25	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Shame Calhoun, Cheshire. "An Apology for Moral Shame"	On Blackboard
March 27	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Shame Locke	On Blackboard
Mar 29	Good Friday – No Classes	
Apr 1	Easter Monday – No Classes	
Apr 3	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Shame Cases	
Apr 5	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Forgiveness Stanlick, Nancy. "Reconciling with Harm"	On Blackboard

Apr 8	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Forgiveness Selection from Norlock, Kathryn, <i>Forgiveness from a Feminist Perspective</i> .	On Blackboard
April 10	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Forgiveness Cases	
April 12	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Hope TBD	On Blackboard
April 15	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Hope TBD	On Blackboard
April 17	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Hope Cases	
April 19	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Friendship Selection from Friedman, Marilyn. <i>What are Friends For?</i> “Friendship and Moral Growth”	On Blackboard
April 22	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Friendship Selection from Friedman, Marilyn. <i>What are Friends For?</i> “Friendship, Choice and Change”	On Blackboard
April 24	Topics in Feminist Ethics—Friendship Cases	
April 26	Group Presentations	
April 29	Group Presentations	Topics Paper Due
May 1	Group Presentations	
May 3	Group Presentations	
Final Exam	Take home final exam due: 1:00 pm, Thursday, May 9	NB: You must turn in a hard copy to Rebmann 109 as well as an electronic copy to Blackboard.

Grade Calculations:

Tronto Paper 25 points
 Film Reflection/Analysis 10 points

Topics Paper	25 points
Group Presentation	10 points
Final Exam	30 points
Total	100 points

Grade Scale:

93-100 points	A	73-76 points	C
90-92 points	A-	70-72 points	C-
87-89 points	B+	67-69 points	D+
83-86 points	B	63-66 points	D
80-82 points	B-	60-62 points	D-
77-79 points	C+	below 60 points	F