

11:30-12:45
Wadsworth 21
PHIL 204
Spring 2014

Feminist Theory and Personal Identity

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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 moral agency.

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 and (4) to write two critical analyses.

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

Meyers, *Feminists Rethink the Self*, Westview Press.

Martin & Barresi, *Personal Identity*, Blackwell.

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

Class Schedule*

Weeks 1-2

Orientation to Philosophy

Philosophical Analysis and Concepts

Classical Ethics

Classical Political Philosophy

Classical Personal Identity

Readings:

Frye "Oppression" (online)

Pojman on Moral Relativism

Wolf (online)

Weeks 3-7

Feminist Theory and Classical Political Philosophy & Ethics

Libertarian Feminism

Liberal Feminism

Marxist Feminism

Socialist Feminism

Existential Feminism

Black Feminism and Womanism

Feminist Care Ethics

Readings:

Wollstonecraft (from Schneir)

Cady Stanton (Schneir)

Wolf (from Schneir)

Nussbaum (online)

Firestone (Nicholson)

Beauvoir (from Nicholson)

Hill Collins (from Nicholson)

Held (online)

Jaggar (online)

Weeks 8-15

Applying Feminist Theory: Personal Identity

The metaphysics of personhood

Personal identity and moral integrity

Personal identity and autonomy

Personal identity and social identity

Readings:

Introduction (PI)

Parfit (PI)

Korsgaard (PI)

Unger (PI)

Sosa (PI)

Johnston (PI)

Strawson (PI)

Schetchman (PI)

Brison (FRT)

Walker (FRT)

Meyers (FRT)

Nussbaum (online video)

Friedman (FRT)

Davion (online)

Homiak (online)

Allen (FRT)

Lugones (FRT)