

Recent Feminist Social and Political Philosophy – Global Gender Justice
PHIL 480, Recent Social and Political Theory
PHIL/WSGS 322, Philosophical Perspectives on Women
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DESCRIPTION:

This seminar focuses on current feminist philosophical treatment of issues concerning global justice, especially global gender justice. In the first half of the course, we examine a series of fundamental theoretical issues – e.g., western feminism in relation to women in the global south, women’s rights as human rights, responsibility for realizing women’s human rights, and poverty, justice, and women’s empowerment. In the second half of the semester, we turn to more practical questions – e.g., sexual violence, sex trafficking, exporting/importing care work, buying/selling reproductive services, and the obligations of liberal societies to immigrant women. In anticipation of the conference on Poverty, Coercion, and Human Rights to be held at Loyola in April 2012, I introduce you to several of the conference speakers through readings for this seminar.

READINGS:

Electronic copies of the readings are (will soon be) available by clicking Content and then Assigned Readings on our Blackboard website. I recommend that you download and save all of the readings to your own computer as soon as possible.

REQUIREMENTS:

Paper or Exams:

Since Incompletes can become a serious problem and different students have different levels of interest in the course topic, I give students a choice about the major course requirement. You may either take a midterm and a final exam (each exam will be 2 and a half hours long and closed book), or you may write a term paper on a topic worked out in consultation with me (15-20 double-spaced typed pages).

The **exam option** is intended for students who would like to gain familiarity with the field of recent feminist work on global gender justice but who do not expect to use this material in their future scholarship. No reading or research beyond the course assignments is required for the exams. Exams will be given at a time agreed upon by the students who will be taking them.

The **term paper option** is intended for students whose principal scholarship is in moral, social, and/or political philosophy and who anticipate that the feminist political philosophy literature might figure in their future scholarship. Considerable research beyond the course readings is required for term papers. You can find additional information on the term paper option (together with suggestions for writing good presentation and term papers) by clicking on Content and then Memos from DTM on our Blackboard website.

I'll ask you to choose between these options early in the term. You will not be permitted to change your decision after the midterm. No midterm makeup will be given. If you miss the midterm for any reason, you've opted to write a term paper. A makeup final will be given only in the event of severe and documented illness or injury. If you decide to write a term paper, you must consult me about your project no later than week 8. The average of your exam grades or your grade on your term paper will constitute 50% of your course grade.

Class Presentations:

You will be required to give two class presentations of critical analyses of assigned readings (each no more than 5 double-spaced typed pages). Details of this assignment are posted under Content/Memos on our Blackboard website. The average of your grades on your two short papers will constitute 25% of your course grade. During weeks 2-7, I'll require students to revise and resubmit their papers based on class comments and my marginal comments. Your revised paper is due at the beginning of class one week after I return it to you. We will work out the scheduling of these presentations at the end of the first class session. You should plan to give one presentation in the first half of the course – that is, before the midterm – and one in the second half of the course. You might want to make use of your presentations to help you develop a term paper topic.

Class Participation:

Since this is a seminar, class participation is expected and will constitute 25% of your course grade. It is crucial that you demonstrate your in-depth understanding of the assigned readings through regular contributions to class discussion.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Week 1, 9/1

Introduction to course requirements and philosophical issues.

Please download and read the course syllabus before our first meeting. On Blackboard, click Content than Syllabus.

Please read these documents concerning Human Rights, Human Development, and Gender (In)Equity and be prepared to discuss them in class this week:

1. http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2010_EN_Table4_reprint.pdf
2. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

And take time to explore this comparative human development website:

3. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data/explorer/>

The Dynamics of Culture and the Problematics of Cross-Cultural Feminism

Week 2, 9/8

Narayan, Uma. 1997. *Dislocating Cultures*, Chapters 1-3. New York: Routledge.

Women's Rights as Human Rights

Week 3, 9/14

Bunch, Charlotte. 1990. "Women's Rights as Human Rights: Toward a Re-Vision of Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly* 12(4): 486-498

Ackerly, Brooke and Susan Moller Okin. 1999. "Feminist Social Criticism and the International Movement for Women's Rights as Human Rights." In *Democracy's Edges*. Ed. Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordón. Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, pp 134-162.

Week 4, 9/22

Nussbaum, Martha. 1995. "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings." In Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover. *Women, Culture, and Development*. Oxford UK: Oxford University Press, pp 61-104.

Jaggar, Alison. 2002. "Challenging Women's Global Inequalities: Some Priorities for Western Philosophers." *Philosophical Topics* 30(2): 229-253.

Women and Poverty

Week 5, 9/29

Higgins, Peter, Audra King, and April Shaw. 2008. "What Is Poverty?" In *Global Feminist Ethics*. Ed. Rebecca Whisnant and Peggy DesAutels. Lanham MD: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 95-116.

Jaggar, Alison. 2009. "Transnational Cycles of Gendered Vulnerability: A Prologue to a Theory of Global Gender Justice." *Philosophical Topics* 37(2): 33-52.

Week 6, 10/6

Koggel, Christine. 2009. "Agency and Empowerment: Embodied Realities in a Globalized World." In *Embodiment and Agency*. Ed. Sue Campbell, et. al. University Park PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, pp. 250-268.

Sassen, Saskia. 2002. "Women's Burden: Counter-Geographies of Globalization and the Feminization of Survival." *Nordic Journal of International Law*. 71: 255-274.

Briones, Leah. 2010. "Capabilities and Livelihood in Filipina Experiences of Domestic Work in Paris and Hong Kong." In *Sex Trafficking, Human Rights, and Social Justice*. Ed. Tiantian Zheng. New York: Routledge, pp. 62-83.

Realizing Women's Rights Globally

Week 7, 10/13

Brock, Gillian. 2009. "Reforming Our Taxation Arrangements to Promote Global Gender Justice." *Philosophical Topics* 37(2): 141-160.

Parekh, Serena. 2011. "Getting to the Root of Gender Inequality: Structural Injustice and Political Responsibility." *Hypatia* 26(4).

Midterm Exam will be given at a mutually convenient time after the week 7 session and before the week 8 session.

Term paper conferences must be scheduled for week 8 if you haven't met with me earlier.

Sex and Violence

Week 8, 10/20

Alcoff, Linda. 2009. "Discourses of Sexual Violence in a Global Framework." *Philosophical Topics* 37(2): 123-140.

Mackinnon, Catharine. 1993. "Crimes of War, Crimes of Peace." *On Human Rights: The Oxford Amnesty Lectures*. Oxford University Press. pp. 83-109.

Card, Claudia. 2002. "Rape in War." Chapter 6 of *The Atrocity Paradigm: A Theory of Evil*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Transnational Sex Work**Week 9, 10/27**

Miriam, Kathy. 2005. "Stopping the Traffic in Women: Power, Agency, and Abolition in Feminist Debates over Sex-Trafficking." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 36(1): 1-17.

Peach, Lucinda Joy. 2006. "Victims or Agents: Female Cross-Border Migrants and Anti-Trafficking Discourse." *Radical Philosophy Today* 4: 101-118.

Transnational Care Work**Week 10, 11/3**

Kittay, Eva. 2009. "The Moral Harm of Migrant Carework: Realizing a Global Right to Care." *Philosophical Topics* 37(2): 53-74.

Gheus, Anca. 2011. "Care Drain: Who Should Provide for the Children Left Behind?" *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*: 1-23.

Transnational Buying/Selling of Reproductive Services**Week 11, 11/10**

Bailey, Alison. 2011. "Reconceiving Surrogacy: Toward a Reproductive Justice Account of Surrogacy Work in India." *Hypatia* 26(4).

Crozier, Gillian. "You've Come a Long Way, Baby...?: Ethical Considerations in Constraining Reproductive Travel" (Typescript provided by author)

Immigrant Women's Rights in Liberal Democracies**Week 12, 11/17**

Susan Moller Okin. 1999. "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" and commentaries by Pollitt, Kymlicka, Honig, al-Hibri, An-Na'im, Bhabha, and Nussbaum. *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* Ed. Joshua Cohen, et. al. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Empathy and Attacks on Women's Human Rights**Week 13, 12/1**

Kruks, Sonja 2001. "Phenomenology and Difference: On the Possibility of Feminist 'World-Travelling.'" Chapter 9 of *Retrieving Experience: Subjectivity and Recognition in Feminist Politics*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press.

DTM – "Empathy and Human Rights Epistemology" (Typescript)

Week 14, 12/8 – I've left this week open, and we will discuss how best to use it for our collective benefit during the term.