

PHILOSOPHY OF WOMEN – SPRING 2014
PHI 2420 SECTION 001

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Class Meets: Sect. 001 MWF 12:30 pm – 1:20 pm
Class meets Tolentine 316
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3 pm; Tuesday 11 am-1 pm
I am also available outside these times by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course students will compare and contrast various contemporary feminist theories in ethics and politics, language, epistemology, and metaphysics. We will look at how race, class, and sexuality affect experiences of gender and how feminist praxis has changed over the years. In part our goal is to sustain a cooperative learning environment in which we look deeply at some of the subareas of philosophy from a different perspective. Students also will be challenged to explore how various theories and practices affect other oppressed social groups.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology, eds Ann Cudd and Robin Andreasen (Malden: Blackwell, 2012)
Egalia's Daughters. Gerd Brantenberg (Seal Press, 1995)

REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend 2 GWS events with <1 page event write up that connects the material from the program to our course. (5% each)
- Three short papers (3 pages each). A topic will be assigned in class but please see general instructions below. (10% each)
- Two exams (20% each): A list of possible exam questions will be distributed approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled exam. Of these potential exam questions (approximately 15 essay questions), three will be chosen the day of the exam and students will be required to answer two of these essay questions.
- Active class participation that demonstrates evidence that you have read each assignment (20%)

CALENDAR:

January 13: Introduction and syllabus

15: A bit of history. PPT (reading <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-femhist/>)

17: Finish history

What is sexism?

January 22: Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to *The Second Sex*, 27-37

24: More Beauvoir

January 27: Ann Cudd and Leslie Jones, Sexism, 73-84

29-31: Kate Millett, Theory of Sexual Politics, 37-60

February 3 - 5: *MissRepresentation*

7: Airbrushed images & contemporary issues (updating Millett)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2340800/Retailers-moral-obligation-ban-airbrush-Debenhams-spearheads-ban-retouched-model-shots-calls-follow-suit.html?upworthy>

Is Sexism a form of Oppression?

February 10: Marilyn Frye, Oppression, 84-91

12-14: Iris Young, Five Faces of Oppression, 91-105

February 17: Sandra Bartky, On Psychological Oppression, 105-115

19: *Egalia's Daughters* (comparing theories of oppression)

21: *Egalia's Daughters*

February 24: *Egalia's Daughters*

26: *Egalia's Daughters* & Midterm review

28: Midterm

Spring break

Thinking about Gender and Race

March 10: McIntosh, White Privilege and Male Privilege, (electronic)

12: Sally Haslanger, Gender and Race, 154-171

14: Anne Fausto-Sterling. The Five Sexes (electronic)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/special-report-intersex-women-speak-out-to-protect-the-next-generation-8974892.html>

Intersectionality

March 17: bell hooks, Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory, 60-69

19-21: Kimberle Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color

Is Knowledge affected by Oppression?

March 24: Helen Longino, Can there be a Feminist Science? 210-218

26-28: Sandra Harding, Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology, 218-237

March 31-April 2: Alison Bailey, Locating Traitorous Identities, (electronic reading)

Thinking about the self

April 4: Anita Allen, *Forgetting Yourself*, 352-365
7: Susan Brison, *Outliving Oneself*, 365-377

Liberation

April 9-11: Simone de Beauvoir, *Conclusion from The Second Sex*, 383-392
14: Catharine MacKinnon, *Difference and Dominance*, 392-403
16: Susan Moller Okin, *Toward a Humanist Justice*, 403-414

Thinking Globally

April 23: Veiling debate (readings TBA)
28: Microfinance and feminism (reading TBA)
29: Global feminist solidarity (reading TBA)
30: Positive ideas (students bring in some contemporary proposals) & Lisa Bloom "How to Talk to Little

Girls." http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lisa-bloom/how-to-talk-to-little-girl_b_882510.html?view=print&comm_ref=false

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 9 2:30 - 5:00

PAPERS:

Please consider the following for every paper you write in this course:

- Avoid gross generalizations and fluffy beginnings. Do not say anything like "From the beginning of history..." "All women are X..." or "Plato was the greatest thinker of all time." These lack substantiation and do not help develop a precise, concise, and compelling argument.
- Include page numbers please. Number the pages of your paper and include the page numbers for any citations.
- Avoid overuse of pronouns. In proofreading your paper, look especially for over use of "this," "these," and "it." Avoid beginning sentences with "It is..." when the "it" does not refer to anything. Good writing habits take practice!
- You will be asked to take positions on issues. A good paper will also consider possible objections to the position it articulates.
- Include complete bibliographic information and use the Chicago Author/Date style sheet.

POLICIES:

- **Unless permission has been given, using a computer or phone during class will count as an absence for that day.** If you need to use a computer for note-taking, you must ask permission each time and certain restrictions will apply. On rare occasions I will grant blanket permission to use a computer during class.
- Students are asked not to leave class in the middle of the class session. Please plan accordingly. If you are ill or otherwise must use the restroom, please leave your phone on the front desk prior to leaving the room.
- No papers will be accepted by email unless special permission has been granted. In such a case, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor receives the paper. An email from the instructor confirming receipt of paper must be received before the paper is considered accepted. For Blackboard submission, see details regarding each assignment.
- Late papers: one letter grade will be deducted for every day a paper is late; a "late" paper is a paper turned in after 5:00 p.m. on day it is due.
- Plagiarism will be strictly prosecuted. Students who plagiarize according to the University definition of plagiarism will receive an "F" for the course. If you do not know the policy or if you are uncertain about how to cite something correctly, please see the Student Handbook (The Blue Book) or speak to the professor for further instructions
- Extenuating circumstances that require a student to miss class or hand in a late assignment must be cleared through the dean's office before the class or due date. This is in accordance with university policy. No late papers will be excused or make-up exams given without the written approval of the appropriate administrator from the student's college dean's office.
- Reevaluation of papers/exams: Students wishing a reevaluation or re-grading of a paper or exam are asked to read over their work and the professor's comments, write up a brief explanation of why the reevaluation is warranted, respond to comments in the paper, and turn in the original graded paper and the supporting write-up no later than one week after the exam or paper was originally returned to the student. Papers or exams subject to reevaluation will be completely reevaluated, i.e., the grade will be refigured entirely and may go up, down, or remain the same. Thorough explanation of action will be provided.
- It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability please contact me after class or during office hours and make arrangements to register with the Learning Support Office by contacting 610-519-5636.