

Feminist Philosophy

Office: Malloy 419

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2; Wednesdays 10-11; by appointment

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Course Description:

This course is intended to introduce students to feminist philosophy by considering the interplay between gender, feminism, and central areas of the philosophical discipline. We will first consider the question, "What is Gender?" (the metaphysical question) and then turn to epistemology, language, and religion.

Course Requirements:

Writing (65%): Students will submit three writing assignments. The first (10%) is a 2-page summary of one of the readings for this course. The second (15%) is a short paper (4-5 pages) summarizing an argument from our reading and presenting a critique of it. The third (30%) is a research paper (9-11 pages) addressing one of the issues discussed in the course. Before submitting the second and third assignments, students will submit an abstract and outline of their papers (5% each)

Oral (15%): Students will give one 7-10 minute oral presentation in the style of a TED talk. The intended audience is a non-philosopher.

Participation and Attendance (20%): This is a discussion oriented course. Students are expected to come to class have carefully read and prepared to discuss the readings.

Accommodations:

I am committed to making this class as accessible as possible. If you need any special accommodations, please talk to me and take advantage of any services the Office of Disability Services has to offer. I will work together with them to make any necessary arrangements.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated in the schedule. Assignments will be counted late 15 minutes after the beginning of class time on that day. Papers will be marked down 5 points for each day past the due date. Students may turn in papers at the professor's office prior to the date due. Exceptions to this policy will be made only in the case of a documented good reason.

Academic Integrity and Classroom Decorum:

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Students found engaging in these activities will receive an automatic 0 on the assignment, possibly an F for the course, and will be reported to the Dean.

A second aspect of academic integrity is respect for both the instructor and fellow students. Ideas may be evaluated and criticized, but the character of the individual defending those ideas may not. Students engaging in this, or any other form of disruption, will be asked to leave the class for the day.

Please turn off all cell phones during class. Lap top computers and tablets may be used for note-taking; however, if it becomes clear that they are being used for other purposes that distract from classroom discussion, the instructor may ask that the device be turned off.

Class Schedule:

Week 1: Metaphysics

Sally Haslanger, "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them to Be?"

Week 2: Metaphysics

Ann Fausto-Sterling, "Dualing Dualisms" and "Of Gender and Genitals"

Week 3: Metaphysics

Charlotte Witt, *Metaphysics of Gender*

Week 4: Metaphysics

Charlotte Witt, *Metaphysics of Gender*

Argument Summary Due

Week 5: Epistemology

Miranda Fricker: "Testimonial Injustice"

Week 6: Epistemology

Jose Medina, "Imposed Silences and Shared Hermeneutical Responsibilities"

Week 7: Epistemology

Kristie Dotson "Tracking Epistemic Violence, Tracking Practices of Silencing"

Objection Due

Week 8: Epistemology

Alison Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge"

Week 9: Language:

Cathrine MacKinnon, "Equality and Speech"

Oral Presentations Begin

Week 10: Language:

Rae Langton, 'Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts'

Week 11: Language

Ishani Maitra & Mary Kate McGowan, "On Silencing, Rape, and Responsibility"

Week 12: Language:

Rebecca Kukla: "Performative Force, Convention, and Discursive Injustice"

Week 13: Religion:

Mike Rea, "Gender as a Divine Attribute"

Week 14: Religion

Beverly Clack, "Feminism and the Problem of Evil"

Week 15: Religion:

Teresa Tobin: "Spiritual Violence, Gender, and Sexuality"

Week 16: Religion:

Marnia Lazreg, "Why Women Should Not Wear the Veil"

Final Paper Due