

**PHIL 169: FEMINISM AND PHILOSOPHY**  
**SOLIS HALL 110, TUESDAY/THURSDAY 2:00-3:20**

**LECTURER: Amy Berg**

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**OFFICE: HSS 7039**

**OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 4:00-6:00 (or by appointment)**

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course is an introduction to feminist philosophy. We'll discuss why feminism has mattered to philosophers and how to apply philosophy to issues women (and men) face in everyday life. We'll consider several questions:

- **What is feminism, and why did it arise as a movement?** We start with an understanding of what feminism is and how it developed from the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to today.
- **What are some debates within feminism?** Next, we look at some of the complexities and controversies within current feminist philosophy: on whether pornography contributes to the oppression of women and on the nature of a sex/gender distinction.
- **What contributions can feminism make to philosophy?** The two issues we discuss here are the ethics of care (a controversial contribution feminists have made to moral theory) and recent work in feminist epistemology.
- **What problems will feminism tackle in the future?** We close our course by considering three issues feminism has grappled with in the past and will continue to grapple with in the future: class, race, and the environment.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES**

**YOU WILL NEED:** TritonEd access. I will post readings, assignments, the syllabus, and other information on TritonEd. Complete all assigned reading before you come to class.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** There are eight assignments (and one mandatory draft) due in this course. Five reading responses are due throughout the quarter. In each of these assignments, you must reflect on some aspect of the reading—something you didn't understand, a question or objection you had, etc. You may complete these on your own schedule, but I encourage you to pace yourself—don't leave them all for the last few weeks of the quarter. These assignments are due by 2:00 on the day **before** our course meets. Submit them via TritonEd.

For the feminism in the community assignment, you are required to do something related to feminism that takes place outside our classroom. Options include: attending a talk or presentation on gender or sexuality, watching a movie with feminist themes, and reading a feminist blog for a week. Like the reading responses, this can be completed at any point during the quarter.

The midterm, a 4-5 page take-home exam, is due on Thursday, 2/4. A draft of the 6-8 page final paper is due on Thursday, March 3. The final draft is due on March 17 by 6 pm. The midterm and the final paper will be graded anonymously—include your student ID, **not** your name, when you turn your papers in. You do not need to anonymize your reading responses.

**ON PARTICIPATION:** The issues feminist philosophy is concerned with are issues many of us face in everyday life. They're issues about how we see our bodies, how we relate to our family members, how we can expect to be treated in society. Discussions of our lived experience are vital to how we do feminist philosophy. For that reason, and because this is an upper-level course, **this is a discussion-based course.** I will lecture occasionally, but class will mostly consist of our discussions together, in groups or as a whole class. I understand, however, that people have different learning styles, and not everyone will always feel comfortable speaking up in class. If you prefer not to participate in class, you're welcome to come see me in my office hours (preferred) or correspond with me over email (also acceptable).

The grade breakdown is:

- **Five reading responses:** 15%
- **Feminism in the community:** 5%
- **Midterm:** 30%
- **Final paper draft:** (ungraded, but failure to turn it in will result in the standard lateness penalty's being applied to your final paper grade)
- **Final paper:** 40%
- **Participation:** 10%

The grade scale is:

A+: 98% or above <b>and</b> at my discretion	A: 93-100%	A-: 90-92%
B+: 87-89%	B: 83-86%	B-: 80-82%
C+: 77-79%	C: 73-76%	C-: 70-72%
D+: 67-69%	D: 63-66%	D-: 60-62%
F: below 60%		

**LATENESS POLICY:** Assignments are to be turned in by their deadlines (2:00 the day before class for the reading responses; at the start of class for the midterm; at the start of the last day of class for the feminism in the community project; by 6 pm on the day of the final). **There are no exceptions unless you make prior arrangements with me.** I will deduct one-third of a grade if the assignment is turned in the day it's due any time after the start of class and one-third of a grade for each day after that that the assignment is late (so, for example, an exam that would have gotten an A if it were turned in on time on Tuesday would get a B if turned in on Thursday).

**ON WRITING:** The ability to express yourself clearly will be crucial to your success in this class. Here are some writing resources I recommend:

- **The UCSD Writing Center** (Mandeville 127; [writingcenter.ucsd.edu](http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu)) will talk through ideas, work through a draft with you, and generally give advice at all stages of the writing process.
- **Style**, by Joseph M. Williams (University of Chicago Press, 1990) is an excellent guide to clear and forceful paper-writing.
- **Me!** Feel free to come to office hours, email me, or make an appointment if you're having trouble with your paper. **I will read complete drafts of your assignments that are turned in *one week or more* before the assignment is due.**

## OTHER POLICIES

- **Laptops and other electronic devices are not allowed in class**, except with written permission from, for example, the Office for Students with Disabilities.
- If you need an accommodation for a disability or for athletic, religious, or personal reasons, please let me know during the first week of the course.
- **You must observe UCSD's academic integrity policies.** If you violate the Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office, and I will penalize you as severely as UCSD allows. If you're concerned you may be in violation of the Policy, you can visit the Academic Integrity Office's website (<http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>) or the Writing Center, or you can talk to me about the assignment.
- You are welcome and encouraged to come to my office hours or make an appointment with me whenever you want to talk about the course material, your assignments, or any other philosophy-related concerns you have.

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK 1

**Tuesday, 1/5:** Course introduction

**Reading:** None

**Thursday, 1/7:** What is feminism?

**Reading:** Johnson, *The Gender Knot* ch. 1; hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody* ch. 1

### WEEK 2

**Tuesday, 1/12:** What is feminist philosophy?

**Reading:** Hofstadter, "A Person Paper on Purity in Language"; Tuana, "Reading Philosophy as a Woman"

**Thursday, 1/14:** History: the first wave

**Reading:** Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, selections from chs. 2-3

### WEEK 3: Midterm distributed on Thursday

**Tuesday, 1/19:** History: the second wave

**Reading:** Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* ch. 10

**Thursday, 1/21:** History: the third wave

**Reading:** Morgan, "Hip-Hop Feminist"; Payette, "The Feminist Wife"

### WEEK 4

**Tuesday, 1/26:** Pornography: feminist objections

**Reading:** Longino, "Pornography, Oppression, and Freedom: A Closer Look"

**Thursday, 1/28:** Pornography: free speech and pornography

**Reading:** Dworkin, "Women and Pornography"

### WEEK 5: Midterm due on Thursday

**Tuesday, 2/2:** Pornography: pro-pornography feminism

**Reading:** Royale, "What's a Nice Girl Like You..."

**Thursday, 2/4:** Sex and gender: the sex/gender distinction

**Reading:** Warnke, *Debating Sex and Gender* ch. 1

### WEEK 6

**Tuesday, 2/9:** Sex and gender: sex, gender, and trans issues

**Reading:** Bergman, selections from *The Nearest Exit May Be behind You*

**Thursday, 2/11:** Sex and gender: skepticism about the sex/gender distinction

**Reading:** Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes"

### WEEK 7: Final paper topics distributed on Thursday

**Tuesday, 2/16:** The ethics of care: women and caring

**Reading:** Gilligan, *In A Different Voice* ch. 2

**Thursday, 2/18:** The ethics of care: skepticism about care

**Reading:** Moody-Adams, "Gender and the Complexity of Moral Voices"

### WEEK 8

**Tuesday, 2/23:** The ethics of care: care without essentialism

**Reading:** Held, "The Ethics of Care as Moral Theory"

**Thursday, 2/25:** Feminist epistemology: implicit bias

**Reading:** Gendler, "On the Epistemic Costs of Implicit Bias"

**WEEK 9: Final paper draft due on Thursday**

**Tuesday, 3/1:** Feminist epistemology: epistemic injustice

**Reading:** Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice* ch. 1

**Thursday, 3/3:** Intersectional feminism: feminism and class

**Reading:** Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed* ch. 2

**WEEK 10: Feminism in the community project due *no later than* Thursday**

**Tuesday, 3/8:** Intersectional feminism: feminism and race

**Reading:** Patricia Hill Collins, "The Politics of Black Feminist Thought"

**Thursday, 3/10:** Intersectional feminism: ecofeminism

**Reading:** Warren, "The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism"

**WEEK 11: Final paper due**

**Thursday, March 17**

**Assignment:** Your final paper is due to me (in person) by 6:00 pm.