

Feminism and Philosophy

PHIL 169 – Fall 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00pm-3:20pm

Warren Lecture Hall [WLH] 2115

INSTRUCTOR

Professor: Clinton Tolley

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Office: HSS 8018

Hours: Tues 12:30-1:45pm

EMAIL LIST

<https://mailman.ucsd.edu/mailman/listinfo/phil169-f19-1>

ONLINE DISCUSSION SITE

<http://pli.ucsd.edu/f19phil169/>

READINGS

all readings will be made available electronically as pdfs

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our course will provide a survey of the history of the incorporation of feminism and feminist theory within philosophy, as well as an overview of more recent discussions of the relationship between feminism and core areas of philosophy.

We will begin by reading selections from some of the more influential contributions to feminism in the history of philosophy before the mid-20th century, by Christine de Pizan, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Mary Wollstonecraft, Alexandra Kollontai, and Simone de Beauvoir.

We will then turn to the complicated inheritance of these classical works by more recent authors (1970s-present) involved in ongoing debates concerning the relationship between feminism and the traditional areas within philosophy, including: ontology, epistemology, phenomenology, ethics, politics, social theory, aesthetics and the philosophy of culture, and the question of the nature of philosophy itself.

One goal of the course will be to introduce and critically engage with the wide variety of philosophical questions that have arisen in the course of the emergence of feminism as a social and intellectual movement. Another will be to explore the wide variety of philosophical traditions and approaches that have actively taken up these questions over the past century. A third will be to begin to formulate (by the conclusion of the course) an assessment of the problems and prospects for future work in feminism in philosophy, in the philosophy of feminism, and for feminism itself as a social and political movement.

REQUIREMENTS

1. *Weekly questionnaires* (40%)

On Monday of each week, there will be a questionnaire posted on the course's TED page, to be completed on TED by **the end of Friday (midnight)** of the same week. The form of these questions will be multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank. The topics of the questions will typically be drawn from both the assigned readings and the lectures from the current week, and answering them will be a straightforward affair for anyone who attends lectures and completes all the readings.

* *Extra credit:* During finals week there will be an optional extra-credit questionnaire, due Friday, December 13th, 5pm.

2. *Weekly online discussion posts* (20%) & *comments* (10%)

(A) Also **by Friday midnight** of each week, you will need to contribute a post to our course's online discussion site (pli). Your post should include:

- (1) a quote of one sentence (or two) of particular interest to you from the week's readings,
- (2) 150-word response, including your thoughts and opinions about the subject-matter being discussed, and
- (3) at least one question about the sentence(s) you've chosen.

(B) Before the **end of the following Sunday (midnight)**, you will also need to post one 100-word (minimum) comment on someone else's post.

* *Extra credit:* Each week you can earn another 0.5% toward your grade by responding to a second post or comment made by others (50-word minimum; once per week; up to an additional 5% toward the overall course grade).

3. *Final essay* (25%)

By **6pm** Thursday of exam week (**December 12th**), you will be required to turn in a 2500-word essay in which you argue for a philosophical thesis concerning the treatment of some topic within feminism that engages with two of our authors. Your essay must be submitted by this time both in hard-copy to my dept mailbox and electronically at Turnitin.com (see note C below). The word-count for your essay should be placed at the end.

4. *Attendance and class participation* (5%)

Due to the nature of the assignments, attendance at the lectures is a prerequisite for doing well in the course. Students are thus expected not to miss meetings without permission, and roll will be taken on a regular basis. Students are also expected to come prepared to discuss the readings, ask questions, raise objections, and otherwise actively contribute to the class meetings. Extra participation in the online discussion groups will also be taken into account.

****NOTE: A minimum of 50% recorded attendance at lectures is required in order to pass the class.****

NOTES ABOUT REQUIREMENTS

A. No extensions will be granted for any assignment or exam, except in cases of **genuine** emergency (e.g., earthquake, flood, fire, death in the family, illness certified by a doctor). No extensions can be granted for the weekly questionnaires at all, due to the distribution of the correct answers shortly after the due date.

B. The UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship must be observed in this course. This includes observance of the following six principles:

As a student,

1. I will not receive or provide unauthorized assistance in examinations.
2. I will not use unauthorized materials during an examination.
3. I will not use materials from sources without proper quotation, acknowledgement or citations.
4. I will not alter examinations, essays, or other assignments for regrading.
5. I will not fabricate data or references.
6. I will not use false excuses to obtain extensions of time for examinations or writing assignments.

C. *Maintaining academic integrity*: Though students are strongly encouraged to discuss the assignments with one another, each student must submit answers to the assignments independently of one another, written in her or his own words. Additionally, students agree that by taking this course, their mid-term examinations and final papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted exams and papers will be included as source documents in the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) site.

D. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing (i) will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office, (ii) will receive a failing grade on the assignment at issue, and (iii) will be in jeopardy of failing the entire course, depending on the nature of the breach of academic integrity.

E. The use of *technology* (phones, tablets, computers, etc.) is *prohibited* during class meetings. No *recordings* can be made of the course sessions without previous consent from the instructor.

F. If any accommodations are needed due to a disability or for religious reasons, please notify me at the end of the first class period or as soon as possible. Students requesting accommodations for the course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and also to the OSD Liaison in the Philosophy Department (Nancy Guerrero) in advance so that accommodations may be arranged.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

{to be read for the date listed; recommended in parentheses}

0.			Thurs Sept 26	Introduction: feminism and/in philosophy	('Feminist philosophy', Noelle McAfee (2018))
1. Tues Oct 1	Christine de Pizan, <i>The Book of the City of Ladies</i> (1405)	'Vision' (§§8, 10, 15, 16); <i>City</i> I: §§1-9, 11, 14, 27, 37; II: §§1, 12-13, 36, 53-54, 69; III: §§1, 19	Thurs Oct 3	Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1691)	'Reply to Sor Filotea' (1691) (Letter of Sor Filotea'; 'In a Lighter Vein')
2. Tues Oct 8	Mary Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> (1792)	Preface; Introduction; Ch 2; Ch 9; Ch13.VI	Thurs Oct 10	Alexandra Kollontai, <i>The Social Basis of the Woman Question</i> (1909)	selections
3. Tues Oct 15	Simone de Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> (1949)	Introductions; 'Women's situation and character'	Thurs Oct 17	Shulamith Firestone, <i>The Dialectice of Sex</i> (1970)	'The Dialectic of Sex'; 'The Ultimate Revolution'
4. Tues Oct 22	Judith Thomson (1971)	'A Defense of Abortion'	Thurs Oct 24	Iris Marion Young (1980)	'Throwing like a Girl'
5. Tues Oct 29	Angela Davis, <i>Women, Race, and Class</i> (1981)	'Rape, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Racist'	Thurs Oct 31	María Lugones, Elizabeth Spelman (1983)	'Have we got a theory for you!'
6. Tues Nov 5	Susan Okin, <i>Justice, Gender, and the Family</i> (1989)	'Vulnerability by Marriage' (Introduction')	Thurs Nov 7	Claudia Card (1996)	'Against Marraige, Against Motherhood'
7. Tues Nov 12	Catherine MacKinnon, <i>Toward a Feminist Theory of the State</i> (1991)	'Pornography: On Morality and Politics'	Thurs Nov 14	Kate Manne, <i>Down Girl: the Logic of Misogyny</i> (2017)	'Threatening Women' (Preface')
8. Tues Nov 19	Judith Butler, <i>Gender Trouble</i> (1990)	'Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire'	Thurs Nov 21	Talia Mae Bettcher (2013)	'Trans Women and the Meaning of 'woman''
9. Tues Nov 26	Hilde Hein (1990); Mary Devereaux (1990)	'The role of feminist aesthetics in feminist theory'; 'Oppressive texts, resisting readers, gendered spectators'	Thurs Nov 28	[thanksgiving]	
10. Tues Dec 3	Elizabeth Anderson (1995)	'Feminist Epistemology'	Thurs Dec 5	Alison Stone (2006)	'What is Feminist Philosophy?'
11.			Thurs Dec 12	essay due	Fri Dec 13 5pm extra credit due

Note: Students are very much encouraged to read all of the texts carefully at least *two* times, for greater comprehension.