

## Phil 169 Feminism & Philosophy

Syllabus  
Fall 2024  
MWF Noon-12:50 pm  
Ridgewalk Academic Complex  
Room 0426

Andy Lamey  
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Office: RWAC 0491  
Student drop-in hours: MW 11:00-11:50 am

*The best way to contact me is in person or by email (I don't check Canvas messenger).*

### 1. Overview

This class investigates questions of justice as they pertain to issues of sex and gender. We will begin our inquiry by examining major statements on such issues from the history of philosophy, beginning in the ancient world. We will read striking texts by Plato and St. Augustine, both of which are highly critical of their society's prevailing gender norms. We will then turn our attention to John Stuart Mill, one of the major philosophers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, whose work is associated with the rise of modern feminism as we know it today. Most of our attention however will be devoted to contemporary authors, with a particular focus on Susan Moller Okin and Amia Srinivasan. Questions raised by them and other class authors include what distinction, if any, theories of justice should make regarding the public and private spheres; whether gender roles should be abolished; to what degree feminists should rely on the government to bring about equality; the relationship between feminism and issues of race and intersectionality; whether sex is a biological category, social category or both; and what role pornography may play in limiting women's freedom and what the correct response to pornography is on a political level. No background in philosophy is presumed and students who are not philosophy majors can do well if they put in the work.

### 2. Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday October 22 (20%)

A 2,000-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday November 19 (30%)

A 2,000-word essay due 11:30 am Thursday December 12 (40%)

In-class Participation (10%)

*Note that students need to submit all three essays to pass the class. Please also note that there is a strong penalty for using ChatGPT to create or partially create written work for this class. Students who are found to have done so will receive a class grade of F (fail).*

### 3. Readings and Schedule

All class readings are available on Canvas.

## Week Zero: Introduction to Phil 169

No reading.

## Week One: Plato I

Mon: Plato (1991 [375 BC]). Book V. *The Republic*. Allan Bloom, trans. Second Edition. New York: Basic Books, 127-62.

Wed: Vlastos, G. (1994 [1989]). Was Plato a Feminist? *Feminist Interpretations of Plato*. Nancy Tuana, ed. University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania State University Press: 11-23.

Also Wed: Annas, Julia (1976). Plato's Republic and Feminism. *Philosophy* 51 / 197: 307-321.

Fri: *Mrs. America*, Episode One: Phyllis.

## Week Two: Augustine

Mon: *Mrs. America* discussion.

Wed: Augustine (1984 [426]). Book One. *City of God*. Henry Bettenson, trans. Hammondsworth: Penguin: 5-47.

Fri: Webb, Melanie. (2013). On Lucretia who slew herself: Rape and Consolation in Augustine's *De ciuitate dei*. *Augustinian Studies* 44 / 1: 37-58.

Fri (Optional): Augustine, *Confessions*, selections.

## Week Three: Mill

Mon: Mill, John Stuart (2006 [1869]). The Subjugation of Women. *On Liberty and The Subjugation of Women*. Alan Ryan, ed. London: Penguin: 3-29.

Wed: Nussbaum, Martha. Mill's Feminism: Liberal, Radical and Queer. *John Stuart Mill—Thought and Influence: The Saint of Rationalism*. Georgios Varouxakis and Paul Kelly, eds. (New York: Routledge, 2010), 130-45.

Wed: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*. Elizabeth Rapaport, ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1978 [1859]), Selections.

Fri: *Mrs. America*, Episode Two: Gloria.

Week Four: Davis and Okin

Mon: *Mrs. America* discussion.

**First Essay Due: Tuesday October 22 5:00 pm**

Wed: Davis, Angela. Rape, Racism and the Myth of the Black Rapist. *Women, Race and Class* (New York: Vintage, 1983) 172-201.

Fri: Okin, Susan Moller. Justice as Fairness: For Whom? (1989). *Justice, Gender and the Family*. New York: Basic Books: 89-109.

Week Five: Okin Cont.

Mon: Okin. Justice From Sphere to Sphere. *Justice, Gender and the Family*.: 110-33.

Wed: Okin. Conclusion: Toward a Humanist Justice. *Justice, Gender and the Family*: 170-86.

Fri: Okin discussion.

Week Six: Governmentalism and Sex

Mon: Tomasi, John (2009). Can Feminism be Liberated from Governmentalism? *Toward a Humanist Justice: The Political Philosophy of Susan Moller Okin*. Debra Satz and Robert Reich, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 67-92.

Wed: Paul Griffiths (2020). Sex is Real. *Aeon*, September 21.

Wed: Jean Kazes (2020). Sophie Grace Chappell Talks Sex and Gender. *The Philosophers' Magazine* 90.

Wed. (optional): R. A. Briggs and B. R. George. (2023). *What Even Is Gender?* (New York: Routledge), 33-4.

Fri: Week Six authors discussion.

Week Seven: Pornography

No Class Monday (Veteran's Day)

Wed: Srinivasan, Amia (2022). Talking to My Students About Porn. *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 33-71.

Friday: *Mrs. America*, Episode Three: Shirley.

Week Eight: Srinivasan and Intersectionality

Mon: Srinivasan, Amia (2022). The Conspiracy Against Men. *The Right to Sex*: 1-31.

**Second Essay Due: Tuesday November 19 5:00 pm**

Wed: Katherine Gasdaglis and Alex Madva (2019). Intersectionality as a Regulative Ideal. *Ergo* 6/44: 1,287-1,330.

Friday: *Mrs. America*: Episode Four: Betty.

Week Nine: Srinivasan

Mon: *Mrs. America* discussion

Wed: Srinivasan, Amia (2022). The Politics of Desire. *The Right to Sex*: 93-122.

No Class Friday (Thanksgiving)

Week Ten: Gender Identity and Racial Identity

Mon: Chow, Kathy (2023). On Loving White Boys. *The Point*: 1-19.

Wed: Tuvel, Rebecca (2017). In Defense of Transracialism. *Hypatia* 32: 263-78.

Friday: Dembroff, Robin and Dee Payton (2020). Why We Shouldn't Compare Transracial to Transgender Identity. *Boston Review*: 1-11.

**Exam-Week Essay Due: Thursday December 12 11:30 am**

#### **4. General Information**

##### *Waitlist*

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

##### *Student Drop-in Hours*

I am happy to meet with students during my drop-in hours, which don't require an appointment. I'm also available by appointment outside of these hours. I'm always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

##### *Email Policy*

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about an exam or other assignment due during exam week that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the assignment deadline.

b) Requests to discuss or adjust grades. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter. If you are graduating let me know and we will make alternative arrangements.

### *Late Work*

For all essays handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than 14 calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your professor, and the last possible day to hand in anything is the day the exam essay is due. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

Note that non-essay assignments (e.g. Perusall assignments or online quizzes, if this class has either) are likely to have different lateness penalties. If so these will normally be outlined in the first class.

### *One-time Discretionary Extension*

I am happy to grant each student one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon (San Diego time) on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

### *Academic Integrity*

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>

### *Health and Well-being*

During your time at UCSD, you may experience a range of issues that can negatively impact your learning. These may include physical illness, housing or food insecurity, strained relationships, loss of motivation, depression, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol and drug problems, feeling down, interpersonal or sexual violence, or grief.

These concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and affect your ability to participate in day-to-day activities. If there are issues related to coursework that are a source of particular stress or challenge, please speak with me, Professor Lamey, so that I am able to support you. UC San Diego provides a number of resources to all enrolled students, including:

Counselling and Psychological Services (858-534-3755 | [caps.ucsd.edu](http://caps.ucsd.edu))

Student Health Services (858-534-3300 | [studenthealth.ucsd.edu](http://studenthealth.ucsd.edu))

CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (858-534-5793 | [care.ucsd.edu](http://care.ucsd.edu))

The Hub Basic Needs Center (858-246-2632 | [basicneeds.ucsd.edu](http://basicneeds.ucsd.edu))

We care about you at UC San Diego, and there is always help available.