

PHIL/WMST 275: Philosophical Issues in Gender and Society

Fall 2016
Tuesday/Thursday 8:00-9:15 a.m.
Caldwell 105

Instructor: Macy Salzberger
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Caldwell 206B

Course Description: This course is intended as an introduction to the philosophical issues in gender and society. We begin with an overview of important concepts in feminist philosophy, such as oppression, gender, femininity, and masculinity. These concepts will serve as a framework as we move forward in the course, studying the ways power and domination manifest through our gendered relations and across identities. We will end the course by briefly considering a few forms of resisting oppression. Given the introductory nature of the course, our reading list is limited. Additional reading materials are available upon request.

Learning objectives:

- i) mastery of the material
- ii) highly thoughtful and imaginative engagement with the issues
- iii) sympathetic and constructive engagement and/or disagreement with the arguments of your classmates and the authors you read
- iv) clear presentation of your own arguments

Grading:

- (1) Paper #1: 20%
 - (1) 10% First Submission
 - (2) 10% Revised
- (2) Paper #2: 20%
- (3) Paper #3: 30%
- (4) Discussion Forum Contributions: 15%
- (5) Attendance and In-Class Participation: 15%

Participation (15%): You will attend every class, unless you have a good reason not to. If you anticipate missing class, write to me, explaining why, beforehand, understanding that I am a reasonable person, but that I also have responsibility to ensure that you are learning.

Since this is a discussion- based course, you are expected to be a regular participant in the discussion. However, the quality of your comments is far more important than the quantity of comments you make. So, to be a good participant in the discussion (and to be successful in the class) you will need to both come to class and carefully read the material assigned in advance.

To have fruitful class discussions, everyone must do the reading in advance. If you don't do the readings, you will be lost in class. If you don't come to class, you will be lost in the readings and assignments. So, arrive prepared and willing to engage. Without this preparation and willingness on your part, we will not be able to have the sort of productive class discussions that will enable you to succeed in and to enjoy this course.

As you will be assigned particular questions to discuss in the online forum, I expect that you have come to class with something to say prepared. In an effort to get more reticent students to engage in classroom discussion, I may cold call students based on what they have written on the discussion forum. This practice is not intended as a means of humiliating or "outing" students for not having done the reading. On the contrary, I will call on students whose discussion forum contributions I have found particular useful in guiding discussion, whose voices might not be otherwise heard without some form of cold-calling employed.

Electronics policy: All electronics (laptops, iPads, cellphones) are prohibited in this class and must be put away and out of sight before class starts. You will leave a very bad impression by texting or fiddling with your phone in class.

Discussion Forum (15%): Every week, you will be expected to contribute to an online discussion forum on Sakai. These forum discussions are intended as a way to get you engaged with the material and each other outside of the classroom. Half of you will be assigned to "Group 1" and half of you will be assigned to "Group 2." Group 1 and Group 2 will alternate between Role A and Role B each week. Your "Role A" posts will count toward your discussion forum grade while your "Role B" posts will count toward your participation grade.

On the week your group is assigned to perform Role A, you will be expected to post an original response to the readings based on the discussion question posted for the week. Your post must also be between 200 and 300 words and submitted to Sakai no later than by Monday at noon. For those assigned to perform Role B, you will be required to respond to someone else's post (either an original post or a response someone else has written on an original post) by Wednesday at noon.

In either role, your post should demonstrate that you have read the material for the week and that you have exercised independent thought. Respectful disagreement is encouraged, but you should make sure that you have done your best to understand what the author has said before disagreeing. Disrespectful behavior, such as insults, aggression, or discrimination, will be penalized and subject to the Honor Code.

Papers (70% total): Everyone is required to write three papers for this course. Each paper should be around 1000-1500 words and should present, explain, and critically engage with a particular issue brought up in the readings and class discussions. I will provide a list of paper topics well in advance of each paper's due date. You must provide both a hard copy (prepared for blind grading) and a soft copy of your paper (uploaded on dropbox). Papers are due at the start of class on the due date. The weight of the papers increases throughout the course to give credit to students who have improved on their writing throughout the course.

Revise and Resubmit: You will be given the opportunity to revise and resubmit your first paper after you have received feedback from me. This is not an opportunity to submit a half-baked paper the first time around because you will be given a second chance to turn in the "final" paper. The first submission will be worth half of your paper's grade and the revision will be worth the other half. The aim of this assignment is to give you a chance to learn how to write a philosophy paper without penalizing you for just learning the ropes.

Peer Feedback: Because you will not be offered the opportunity to revise and resubmit for your second and third papers, you will instead be required to give feedback to one another on drafts of your papers. For each paper, I will assign you a partner to whom you will submit a draft five days prior to the paper's deadline. Within 48 hours, you must provide feedback to your partner on their draft. Signed copies of the feedback must be turned in to me along with your final paper. These comments will be worth five points of your final paper grade.

Late work policy: Late work will not be accepted without a grade penalty. For every 24-hour period your paper is late, I will deduct half a letter grade, or 5 points, from the grade you would have received on that assignment if it were on-time (that means a B paper that is one day late becomes a B- paper, or, an 85 becomes an 80). That said, I understand that we all have bad luck sometimes. If you feel you are under special circumstances that justify me giving you an extension, please ask me for one as soon as possible. The earlier you ask, the more likely I am to give you an extension. Failure to turn in either one of the papers will result in failing the course.

Academic integrity and honor code: Be aware that academic dishonesty is a serious offense at UNC. All students are expected to adhere to the UNC Honor Code. Do make yourself familiar with the university's policies on plagiarism. It may be useful to take the UNC plagiarism tutorial: <http://www.lib.unc.edu/instruct/plagiarism>. As your instructor, I am required to report any case of suspected plagiarism to the Honor Court (which I hear is pretty brutal. The minimum sentence is expulsion for a semester, even if you plead guilty).

The UNC Honor Code defines plagiarism as

“the *deliberate or reckless* representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise”.

Some things that count as plagiarism:

1. Copying and pasting someone else's ideas without citation. Citations must include author's name and page number(s).
2. Paraphrasing someone else's ideas (for instance, ethical theories) without citation.
3. Unauthorized collaboration with others (students or otherwise). You are permitted to discuss with others, but all work that you turn in must be your own.

As the Office of Student Conduct stresses, plagiarism occurs in many forms and for many different reasons, and sometimes even when we are not aware of doing it. So please consult me if you are unsure or worried that something you have written may count as plagiarism, before its too late!

Useful Resources

- **Your student rights and responsibilities** along with the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance can be found here: <http://studentconduct.unc.edu/students/rights-responsibilities>
- **The Writing Center** provides various services that can help you develop and perfect your writing skills. They also have great writing guides on their website. See especially the handout on writing a philosophy paper: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu>
- [The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy \(online\) is an excellent resource.](#)

Over the course of the semester, it is likely that some topics will come up in the readings or classroom discussions that may be emotionally harmful or even traumatizing to some students (domestic violence, rape, harassment, eating disorders, etc.). If you suspect that specific material on the syllabus is likely to be emotionally harmful for you, please let me know. I'd be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. I can do so either in person or over email depending on your preference.

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SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

COURSE INTRODUCTION

FORUM TOPIC: Introduce yourself!

Week 1: Why study feminist philosophy?

Tuesday Aug 23

introductions- no reading assigned

Thursday Aug 25

Young, Iris Marion. "Throwing Like A Girl." Laden, Tony. *Reasoning: A Social Picture*, "Prologue."

UNIT I: Understanding Gender

FORUM TOPIC: Should we refrain from "sex-marking"?

Week 2: What is sexism, what is oppression?

Tuesday August 30

Frye, Marilyn. "Sexism."

Thursday September 1

Young, Iris Marion. "Five Faces of Oppression."

FORUM TOPIC: Is gender a useful concept?

Week 3: What is gender, what is sex?

Tuesday September 6

Haslanger, Sally. "Gender and Social Construction."

Thursday September 8

Christina, Greta. "Are we having sex now or what?"

<http://www.queens.edu/Student-Life/Public-Safety-and-Campus-Police/Sexual-Misconduct/NC-Laws-on-Rape-and-Sexual-Offenses.html>

FORUM TOPIC: Is masculinity necessarily violent?

Week 4: What is masculinity?

Tuesday September 13

Hugh LaFollette. "Real Men." Strikwerda and May. "Male Friendship and Intimacy."

Thursday September 15

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/10/education/edlife/teaching-men-to-be-emotionally-honest.html?_r=0

FORUM TOPIC: What does it mean to be "feminine"?

Week 5: What is femininity?

Tuesday September 20

Bartky, Sandra. "On Psychological Oppression," "Narcissism, Femininity, and Alienation."

PAPER #1 DUE

Thursday September 22

Burkett, Elinor. "What Makes a Woman?" and letters to the editor: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/14/opinion/caitlyn-jenner-and-gender-stereotypes.html>

UNIT II: Gender Across Identities

FORUM TOPIC: How should white feminists support feminists of color?

Week 6: Resisting Racism

Tuesday September 27

Frye, "On Being White." Collins, Patricia Hill. "The Politics of Black Feminist Thought."

Thursday September 29

<https://newrepublic.com/article/119412/feminisms-future-debate>

FORUM TOPIC: Is multiculturalism bad for women?

Week 7: Cross-cultural love and solidarity

Tuesday October 4

Eltahawy. "Black Veil, White Flag." Okin, Susan Moller. "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?"

Thursday October 6

Lugones, Maria. "Playfulness, 'World-Traveling', and Loving Perception."

FORUM TOPIC: Can we fight sexism without separatism?

Week 8: Radical Lesbian Feminism

Tuesday October 11

Frye, Marilyn. "Some Notes on Separatism and Power."

Thursday October 13

Card, Claudia. "Against Marriage and Motherhood."

PAPER #1 REVISE DUE

FORUM TOPIC: Is separatism compatible with pluralist feminism?

Week 9: Transfeminism

Tuesday October 18

Serano, Julia. *Excluded*. "How to be an ally to trans women." *Transparent* "Man on the Land" Episode 9, Season 2.

FALL BREAK

UNIT III: Gender in Context

FORUM TOPIC: Is objectification always objectionable?

Week 10: Objectification and sexual desire

Tuesday October 25

Eaton, Anne. "What's Wrong with the (Female) Nude?"

Thursday October 27

Bartky, Sandra. "Feminine Masochism and the Politics of Personal Transformation."

FORUM TOPIC: Can intoxicated sex ever be consensual?

Week 11: Interpersonal Violence

Tuesday November 1

Wertheimer, "Intoxicated Consent."** Baber, Harriet. "How Bad is Rape?"

**Please note that Wertheimer discusses rape as between a man and a woman. His use is consistent with North Carolina law, which defines rape exclusively in terms of vaginal penetration. Crimes of domestic violence, in the state of North Carolina, are also defined in terms of relations between individuals of the "opposite sex."

PAPER #2 DUE

Thursday November 3

Card, Claudia. "Domestic Terrorism." *Amnesty International* "chart of coercion" (from Ann Jones, *Next Time She'll Be Dead*, Boston: Beacon, 1994, pp. 90-91)

FORUM TOPIC: How should we value autonomy in the context of intimate relationships?

Week 12: Love and Sex

Tuesday November 8

Friedman, "Romantic Love and Personal Autonomy."

Thursday November 10

Card, Claudia. "The Symbolic Significance of Sex." Alicia Eler and Eve Peyser, "Tinderization of Feeling."

FORUM TOPIC: What is the value of marriage?

Week 13 Domesticity

Tuesday November 15

Okin, Susan Moller. "Vulnerability By Marriage."

Thursday November 17

Brake, Elizabeth. "Is Divorce Promise-Breaking?"

FORUM TOPIC: Should feminists oppose prostitution?

Week 14: Markets and Sexual Services

Tuesday November 22

Schrage, "Should Feminists Oppose Prostitution?" Estes, "Moral Reflections on Prostitution."

NO CLASS HAPPY TGIVES

UNIT IV: Resisting Oppression

FORUM TOPIC: Must good feminists stay angry?

Week 15: Anger

Tuesday November 29

Frye, Marilyn. "A Note on Anger." Lugones, Maria. "Hard-To-Handle-Anger."

Thursday December 1

Ahmed, Sara. "Self-Care as Warfare."

FORUM TOPIC: Do we have a duty to resist our own oppression?

Week 16: Taking Action

Tuesday December 6

no readings assigned- closing discussion

PAPER #3 DUE