

PHILOSOPHY 4060-01: PHILOSOPHY OF FEMINISM
MONDAYS 2:30PM-5:20PM
MACKINNON 235

Instructor: Megan Penney
Office Hours (for all course related questions):
Mondays 12:00pm-2:00pm
Office Location: MACK 368
E-Mail: mpenney@uoguelph.ca

Course Description:

The aim of this advanced course is to critically assess readings within *The Feminist Philosophy Reader*. Students will explore four themes within the *Reader*: Oppression and Resistance, Sex and Gender, Feminist Ethical Theories, and Feminist Political Philosophies.

Students will be expected to think critically about the arguments made in each reading, and to participate in class discussions. Throughout this course, core feminist readings will challenge students to consider the validity of the arguments presented, and the possibility of further support or objections to them.

Required Text:

Bailey, Alison and Chris Cuomo eds., *The Feminist Philosophy Reader* (New York: McGraw Hill, 2008)

Course Requirements:

- ⊗ Presentation 35%
- ⊗ Term Paper 40%
- ⊗ Preparedness and Participation 25%

Please note: All submissions must be given in **hard copy** to the Instructor in the specified class. Absolutely **no** electronic submissions will be accepted.

Important Information:

Laptops are permitted in the course, however if the Instructor deems that laptops are being used for purposes unrelated to this course, the privilege will be revoked.

This is not a lecture-based/exam-based class. This means that it will be insufficient for students to merely attend class. Students must be actively engaged in the course, and participate in class discussions; as large portions of the class will be dedicated to it.

Since this is a three hour course, there will be three 10 minute breaks throughout the class time, usually after each hour. We will resume promptly after the 10 minute break.

Late Penalties:

If proper documentation is received by the Instructor for one of the reasons outlined by the Undergraduate Calendar (medical, psychological or compassionate circumstances), then, and only then, will the Instructor work something out with the student. Extensions will be considered only after the student provides the aforementioned information.

Students must submit their assignments in class on certain specified dates. An assignment is late if it is handed in after 5:20pm on that date. A penalty of 5 marks per day will be applied to any assignment received **after** 5:20pm on the specified date, and it is 10 marks over the weekend. Because students must submit their assignments in class, if they wait to submit their assignment until the next class they would lose 35 marks (7 days late).

To be clear, here are some examples: Your original mark was 75 but you handed it in after 5:20pm (on the specified class), you receive 70. Your original mark was 65, but you were late 2 days, so you receive a 55. Finally, your original mark was 75, but you waited a week to submit your assignment, you would receive 40 (5 week days and a weekend).

Assignment Descriptions:

Presentation: Each student will be responsible for a class presentation at a designated point in the semester. The student will be responsible for preparing a presentation which consists in what they consider to be the 2 main points from the reading, and 1 original philosophical contribution. She will then be expected to read from, and then submit a presentation paper, which should be about 7 pages in length. Each presenter will talk for 15-20 minutes and will take questions for 10-15 minutes, for a total of 30 minutes.

The other students in the class will be expected to prepare 3 questions about the reading for the week. The students not presenting will submit a copy of their questions to the Instructor at the beginning of each class. This means that each student will need to have 2 copies, one to keep at their seat to ask questions to the presenters, and one to give to the Instructor. The specifics of the assignment will be discussed in depth in class on Monday, September 20.

Term Paper: With the term paper, students have an option of submitting an outline to the Instructor for comments and feedback. This is completely up to the student, but by submitting an outline, students will be positively contributing to their participation and preparation mark. The outlines are due in class on November 29 and will be promptly returned in class on December 2. The term paper will be due on December 9, by 1:00pm and must be submitted in hard copy to the Instructor's office (MACK 368). Electronic submissions will not be sufficient. The Term Paper requirements will be discussed in depth in class on November 1.

Preparedness and Participation: Part of the Student's grade will be composed of this mark. This means that students should actively prepare and participate in class discussions. Part of this grade will be composed of weekly question submissions. Another potential contribution to this grade is the optional Term Paper Outline.

Grading Standards:

Available in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-grds-proc.shtml> .

“That the assignment of grades at the University of Guelph be based on clearly defined standards, which are to be published in the Undergraduate Calendar for the benefit of faculty and students and that the definitions for each of the numerical grade range (letter grades) be as follows:

- **80 - 100 (A) Excellent.** An outstanding performance in which the student demonstrates a superior grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to go beyond the given material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a high degree of creative and/or logical thinking, a superior ability to organize, to analyze, and to integrate ideas, and a thorough familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **70 - 79 (B) Good.** A more than adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a thorough grasp of the subject matter, and an ability to organize and examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student demonstrates a good understanding of the relevant issues and a familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **60 - 69 (C) Acceptable.** An adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a generally adequate grasp of the subject matter and a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner. The student displays an adequate understanding of the relevant issues, and a general familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.

- **50 - 59 (D) Minimally Acceptable.** A barely adequate performance in which the student demonstrates a familiarity with the subject matter, but whose attempts to examine the material in a critical and constructive manner are only partially successful. The student displays some understanding of the relevant issues, and some familiarity with the appropriate literature and techniques.
- **0 - 49 (F) Fail.** An inadequate performance.”

Tentative Course Schedule:

September:

13: Theme: *Oppression and Resistance*

Reading: Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex”

20: Theme: *Oppression and Resistance*

Reading: Marilyn Frye, “Oppression”

27: Theme: *Sex and Gender*

Reading: Simone de Beauvoir, “Introduction to Second Sex”

First Presentation

Second Presentation

October:

4: Theme: *Sex and Gender*

Reading: Anne Fausto-Sterling, “Should There Only be Two Sexes?”

Third Presentation

Fourth Presentation

11: Holiday No Classes

18: Theme: *Feminist Ethical Theories*

Reading: Carol Gilligan, “Moral Orientation and Moral Development”

Fifth Presentation

Sixth Presentation

Seventh Presentation

25: Theme: *Feminist Ethical Theories*

Reading: Virginia Held, “Taking Care: Care as Practice and Value”

Eighth Presentation

Ninth Presentation

Tenth Presentation

November:

1: Theme: *Feminist Ethical Theories*

Reading: Claudia Card, “The Moral Powers of Victims”

Eleventh Presentation

Twelfth Presentation

Thirteenth Presentation

8: Theme: *Feminist Political Philosophies*

Reading: Marilyn Friedman, "Autonomy, Social Disruption and Women"

Fourteenth Presentation

Fifteenth Presentation

Sixteenth Presentation

15: Theme: *Feminist Political Philosophies*

Reading: Nancy Fraser, "After the Family Wage: Gender Equity and the Welfare State"

Seventeenth Presentation

Eighteenth Presentation

Nineteenth Presentation

Twentieth Presentation

22: Theme: *Feminist Political Philosophies*

Reading: Iris Marion Young, "Difference and Social Policy: Reflections in the Context of Social Movements"

29: Theme: Open Class

Reading: TBA

Outline for Term Paper Due (If handing in)

December:**2: Make-up class for October 11**

Theme: Open Class

Reading: TBA

Outline handed back

9: Final Term Paper Due: Must be Submitted in hard copy to Megan's office (MACK 368) by 1:00pm.

Please note: If your paper is not received in hard copy by 1:00pm on December 9th, it will be considered late.

For example: a paper that is submitted in hard copy form at 1:30pm on December 9th is late and will be subject to the late penalties outlined in this syllabus. Also a paper that is only submitted in electronic form by 1:30pm will also be considered late and subject to the same penalties.

Seven Standard Statements:**E-mail Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate

Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>