

**University of Guelph
Department of Philosophy**

**PHIL 2060
Philosophy of Feminism**

Professor K. Wendling

Winter 2014

TuTh 4-5:20, MACK 226

Office hours: Thursdays 1-3 and by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to philosophical issues in feminism and feminist issues in philosophy. In the first part of the course, philosophical issues in feminism, we look briefly at the history and development of feminist theory and feminist movements. Following that, we look at second-wave feminist theory and philosophy. The second part of the course covers feminist issues that arise in the discipline of philosophy. Here we focus on what feminist philosophers have said about sex and gender, and ethics.

Required Texts

Lindeman, *An Invitation to Feminist Ethics* (McGraw-Hill, 2006)

Warnke, *Debating Sex and Gender* (Oxford, 2011)

Readings available on Courselink and through the Library

Course Requirements

- Test 1, Thursday, January 30, 20%
- Test 2, Thursday, March 6, 20%
- Essay, due Tuesday, March 18, 35%
- Final Assignment, due Monday, April 7, 25%

Information on the Assignments

The tests will be open-book and open-note.

Make-up tests will be given only with a note from a doctor or your Program Counsellor.

The essay will be 1250-1500 words, 1750 words maximum, on an assigned topic. You will have some choice of topics.

You should use the essay to engage philosophically with the course material. Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis. Written work in which the relevant course readings and discussions are not central may be assigned a grade of zero.

I reserve the right to require an oral examination as part of any written piece of work. In that

case, the oral examination counts for 75% of your grade on that assignment.

Late penalties are 2% per day, to a maximum of 10%. Saturday and Sunday count 2% each.

I give a two-day, no-questions-asked extension on the essay. For longer extensions, I may require a note from your Program Counsellor or a medical note.

Tests normally will be returned in a week.

If you want comments on your essay, put “Comments” (without the quotation marks) at the top of the first page.

Essays without comments normally will be returned in a week. Essays with comments normally will be returned in two weeks.

Essays that arrive after the scheduled due date, including those that come in during the grace period, will be returned later, and may receive sparser comments.

No essays will be accepted after I hand back the first batch of graded essays without a very serious and documented excuse.

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. For information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration, see the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>.

Drop Date

The last date for undergrads or grads to drop one-semester Winter 2014 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 7, 2014. 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.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities

that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

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. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar at

<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/>.

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counselling Office: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>.

Schedule

	<u>Topic/Assignment</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Jan. 7	Introduction; some basic feminist concepts	
Jan. 9	Brief history of feminist thought in the west	
Jan. 14	Socialism, nationalism, & feminism	
Jan. 16	<i>The Second Sex</i>	de Beauvoir
Jan. 21	American radical feminism	Millett
Jan. 23	Sameness, difference, & dominance	MacKinnon
Jan 28	Feminist theory and practice	Mansbridge
<u>Jan. 30</u>	<u>Test 1</u>	
Feb. 4	Theory by & about women of colour	hooks
Feb. 6	Theory by & about lesbians/queer women	TBA
Feb. 11	Reconceptualizing differences among women	Lerner
Feb. 13	Privilege	Alcoff
[Feb. 17-21: Reading Week – no classes]		
Feb. 25	Sex & gender	Warnke, ch. 1
Feb. 27	Sex & gender	Warnke, ch. 2
Mar. 4	Sex & gender	Warnke, ch. 3
<u>Mar. 6</u>	<u>Test 2</u>	
Mar. 11	Sex & gender	Warnke, ch. 4
Mar. 13	Sex & gender	Warnke, chs. 5 & 6
<u>Mar. 18</u>	Feminist ethics; <u>Essay due</u>	Lindemann, ch. 1
Mar. 20	Feminist ethics	Lindemann, ch. 2
Mar. 25	Feminist ethics	Lindemann, ch. 3
Mar. 27	Feminist ethics	Lindemann, ch. 4
Apr. 1	Feminist ethics	Lindemann, ch. 5
Apr. 3	Wrap-up	
<u>Mon., Apr. 7 Final Assignment due</u>		