

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
COLLEGE OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy**

COURSE TITLE: Philosophy of Feminism

COURSE CODE: PHIL 2060

SEMESTER: Winter 2015

LECTURE: Tuesday and Thursday 4-5:50, MINS 103

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. K. Wendling

OFFICE: MacKinnon 359 (in the office tower)

PHONE: 519-824-4120 ext. 53229

EMAIL: wendling@uoguelph.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:20, and by appointment

COURSE WEBSITE:

Access via <http://courselink.uoguelph.ca> using your central login and password.

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 some philosophical issues in the history and development of feminist theory and 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, gender, and ethics.

TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

- Lindeman, An Invitation to Feminist Ethics (McGraw-Hill, 2006)
- Other readings available on Courselink

EVALUATION (Method of Assessment/ Weight of Assessment/ Due Date):

- Best 2 of 3 short papers, 33% each, due February 3, February 24, and March 17
- A final assignment, 34%, due Monday, April 6

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Electronic devices – laptops, cellphones, etc. – may **not** be used in class unless (1) you are registered with Student Accessibility Services, (2) you have documentation showing that you are taking notes for someone who is registered with SAS, or (3) you have a similar documented reason.

The essays and final assignment will be 500-600 words each, 750 words maximum, on assigned topics. You will have some choice of topics.

Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your papers. 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.

Don't think the assignments will be easy because they are short. A short assignment is harder to write than a longer one, because there's no room for deadwood or sidetracks. Expect to write, rewrite and polish your assignments, perhaps several times, before you hand them in.

I give a two-day, no-questions-asked extension on the essays (note: not on the final assignment). For longer extensions, I may require a note from your Program Counsellor or a medical note.

All extensions on compassionate grounds must go through your Program Counsellor.

Normally, essays that arrive by the scheduled due date, with no extension, will be returned by the Thursday of the following week. Essays that arrive by the no-questions-asked extension will be returned in two weeks. Essays that arrive later will be returned when I get to them.

Late penalties on the essays (note: not the final assignment) are 2% per day, to a maximum of 15%. Saturday and Sunday count 2% each. I will not accept essays that are more than nine days late (that is, after I hand back the first batch of graded essays).

My late penalties are minor, but the penalties for sloppy work are major. If you write your essay at the last minute, take an extra day or two to polish it. The 2-4% you lose will be less than what you will lose if you turn in an essay that has not been polished and proofread.

If you are on Academic Probation, you have until Friday, January 17 to tell me, so we can work together to help you do well in this course.

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 ARE UNABLE TO 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's information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

DROP DATE

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday March 6, 2015. See the Undergraduate Calendar's regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

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

ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability, should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or e-mail sas@uoguelph.ca or refer to the SAS website.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of 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.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

RECORDING OF MATERIALS

Presentations which are made in relation to course work – including lectures – cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

RESOURCES

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars>.

COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

(Date: Topic; Reading; Due Date; [C] = reading on Courselink)

Jan. 6: Intro; some basic feminist concepts

Jan. 8: A brief history of feminist thought in the west

Jan. 13: Socialism, nationalism & feminism

Jan. 15: Beauvoir's *The Second Sex*; Beauvoir [C]

Jan. 20: Beauvoir, cont.

Jan. 22: American radical feminism; Millett [C]

Jan. 27: Sameness, difference & dominance; MacKinnon [C]

Jan. 29: MacKinnon, cont.

Feb. 3: Feminist theory and practice; Mansbridge [C]; **Essay 1 due**

Feb. 5: Theory by and about women of colour; hooks [C]

Feb. 10: Theory by and about lesbians/queer women; TBA [C]

Feb. 12: Reconceptualizing differences among women; Lerner [C]

Feb. 16-20: Reading Week

Feb. 24: Privilege; Alcoff [C]; **Essay 2 due**

Feb. 26: Alcoff, cont.

Mar. 3: Sex & gender; Rubin [C]

Mar. 5: Rubin, cont.

Mar. 10: Sex & gender; Butler [C]

Mar. 12: Butler, cont.

Mar. 17: Feminist ethics; Lindemann, ch. 1; **Essay 3 due**

Mar. 19: Feminist ethics; Lindemann, ch. 2

Mar. 24: Feminist ethics; Lindemann, ch. 3

Mar. 26: Feminist ethics; Lindemann, ch. 4

Mar. 31: Feminist ethics; Lindemann, ch. 5

Apr. 2: Wrap-up; TBA [C]

Monday, April 6: Final assignment due