

**Philosophy 2060: Philosophy of Feminism
Winter 2013**

Professor Patricia Sheridan

Office hours: Mondays, 2:30-3:30 (or by appointment)

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Feminism is, in one sense, a critique of the male-dominated social and political structures that have denied women full rights, opportunities and modes of self-expression. Feminism is, in another (related) sense, a body of thought about human nature, human society and human rights. Feminism is, in every sense, transformative. It is intended to change not just our way of acting, but our way of thinking as well. In this course, we will be examining how philosophy itself transforms under a feminist gaze; specifically, how traditional philosophical thinking might be altered so as to represent the human experience beyond that of privileged men. The intention of feminist philosophers goes beyond merely transforming the discipline, however. By rethinking notions of human nature and human moral life, feminists seek to establish a sound and practical intellectual foundation for the transformation of our social and political institutions.

We will be approaching the course in two parts: The first part of the course is devoted to feminist interpretations of traditional metaphysical and epistemological questions (conceptions of reality, of human nature, and of human knowledge); the second part of the course is devoted to feminist interpretations of traditional moral questions (conceptions of duty, right, agency, and responsibility).

Required Texts:

1. *Women Knowledge and Reality*, 2nd edition, eds. Ann Garry and Marilyn Pearsall (Routledge, 1996).
2. *Setting the Moral Compass*, ed. Chesire Calhoun (Oxford, 2004)

Evaluation:

2 three-page critical summaries*	40% (2 x 20%)
Mid-term**	30%
Final exam***	30%

***Critical Summaries (2 x 20%):** A critical summary is a method of critical analysis, which requires a precise formulation of the argument of a given piece of text, in your own words, along with a critical analysis of its relative strength or weakness. You will be asked to write two critical summaries; each on an assigned piece of text. Detailed guidelines on writing critical summaries will be handed out in class and made available on D2L. The submission dates for critical summaries are clearly indicated below on the *Course Reading Schedule*.

-- Late assignments will not be accepted, except on medical or compassionate grounds. You must speak to Professor Sheridan to arrange for late submission of assignments.

****Mid-term (30%):** This will be an in-class test (1 hour in length); it will consist of one essay question. This test is cumulative of all material covered up to the date of the mid-term. Date: February 28th

--if you are not able to write the test for medical or compassionate reasons, please come talk to me as early as possible.

*****Final exam (30%):** This exam will be 2 hours long (room TBA); essay format. You will be given three essay questions, in class, on the last day of classes and two of them will appear on the final exam. This exam will be cumulative of all material covered during the term. Date: April 10th, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

--if you are unable to write the final exam, there are specific procedures set out in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Course Reading Schedule

Part I: Women, Knowledge and Reality

- Week 1 (wk of Jan. 8): Introduction
-Sheman, "The Unavoidability of Gender" (*WKR*, 26-33)
- Week 2 (wk of Jan. 15): -Frye, "The possibility of a Feminist Theory" (*WKR*, 34-47)
-Hooks, "Choose in the Margin as a Space of Radical Openness" (*WKR*, 48-55)
-Haslanger, "Objective Reality, Male Reality, and Social Construction" (*WKR*, 84-107)
- Week 3 (wk of Jan. 22): -Ferguson, "Can I Choose Who I Am? And How Would That Empower Me? Gender, Race, Identities, and the Self" (*WKR*, 108-126)
-Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology" (*WKR*, 166-190)
- Week 4 (wk of Jan. 29): -Code, "Taking Subjectivity into Account" (*WKR*, 191-221)
-Collins, "The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought" (*WKR*, 222-248)
January 31: critical summary #1 due
- Week 5 (wk of Feb. 5): -Longino, "Can There Be a Feminist Science?" (*WKR*, 251-263)
-Shiva, "Science, Nature, and Gender" (*WKR*, 264-285)
- Week 6 (wk of Feb. 12): -Nelson, "Who Knows? What Can They Know? And When?" (*WKR*, 286-297)
-Bordo, "Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture" (*WKR*, 388-418)

February 18-22: Reading week

- Week 7 (wk of Feb. 26): Hein, "Liberating Philosophy: An End to the Dichotomy of Spirit and Matter" (*WKR*, 437-453)
***February 28: Mid-term test**

Part II: Setting the Moral Compass

- Week 8 (wk of Mar. 5): -Held, "Taking Care: Care as Practice and Value" (*SMC*, 59-71)
-Nussbaum, "The Future of Feminist Liberalism" (*SMC*, 72-88)
- Week 9 (wk of Mar. 12): -Wolf, "The Moral of Moral Luck" (*SMC*, 113-127)
-Calhoun, "Common Decency" (*SMC*, 128-142)
- Week 10 (wk of Mar. 19): -Card, "Genocide and Social Death" (*SMC*, 161-175)
-Jaggar, "Globalizing Feminist Ethics." (*SMC*, 233-255)
March 21: critical summary #2 due
- Week 11 (wk of Mar. 26): -Moody-Adams, "The Idea of Moral Progress." (*SMC*, 256-272)
-Jones, "Emotional Responsibility as Practical Rationality" (*SMC*, 333-352)
- Week 12 (wk of Apr. 2): -Baron, "Killing in the Heat of passion" (*SMC*, 353-378)
***April 4th: Final exam questions distributed**

Final Exam April 10th, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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 Winter 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 8, 2013. 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 which, 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. 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/>

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