



PHIL*3210 Women in the History of Philosophy

Fall 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 2.00 - September 06, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course will examine selected works of women philosophers and their contributions to the major philosophical debates of their day. The philosophers covered may be drawn from any period in the history of philosophy, up to, and including, the 20th century and topics covered have ranged across feminist issues, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. Because texts and topics will vary with the instructor, students are advised to consult the departmental website.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course will examine the works of several early modern women philosophers. Each of these women made an original contribution to the dominating philosophical debates of their time. These women are noteworthy not only for the fact that they wrote philosophy under adverse conditions, but also for the fact that their writings challenged the views of some of the most important thinkers of their time. We will begin with a consideration of women's lives in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—this will provide important context for appreciating not only the small numbers of women writing in this period but also the philosophical accomplishments of those who did write. We will follow by examining, in turn, the relevant arguments of major seventeenth and eighteenth century thinkers and the critical responses of the women philosophers under consideration. This course aims to provide you with an appreciation both for the dominating debates of the early modern period and for the contributions women made to those debates.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:20

1.4 Final Exam

There is a final take-home exam for this course. The due date is: **Tuesday December 10th,**

11:59 p.m. Please see below for more information regarding the format and submission details of the final take-home exam.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Patricia Sheridan
Email:	pmsherid@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x53221
Office:	MCKN 335

2.2 Office hours

Thursdays: 2:30-4:00, or by appointment

2.3 TA

Will Vallières is the teaching assistant for this class.

Note: Will will be grading the Critical Summary assignments and will be available for office hours following the grading of each of these assignment (time and location TBA).

For consultation regarding the writing of the Critical Summaries, or any questions about extensions, please see Professor Sheridan in her office hours (or make an appointment) or contact her by email.

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Course reading materials

The readings for this course will all be online. They will be made available through Courselink.

- Rene Descartes: Selections from Descartes' Meditations and Principles of Philosophy
 - Princess Elizabeth: Correspondence between Descartes and Princess Elizabeth
 - Anne Conway: Principles of the Most Ancient and Modern Philosophy
 - Damaris Masham: Occasional Thoughts in Reference to a Vertuous or Cristian life
 - Mary Astell: A Serious Proposal to the Ladies
 - Catharine Trotter Cockburn: selections from various works
 - Mary Wollstonecraft: A Vindication of the Rights of Women
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4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate major developments in the history of philosophy.
 2. Identify and critically evaluate the practical significance of major developments in the history of moral philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics, and feminism.
 3. Read and comprehend complex original source materials in the history and problems of philosophy.
 4. Write clearly and cogently on advanced problems in philosophy.
 5. Be skilled in the use of key tools for sound justification and rational persuasion, including formal and informal logic, the gathering of empirical evidence and the balanced judgment of conflicting interpretations.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Course Schedule

The reading schedule and schedule of assignments will be distributed in class and will be made available on Courselink.

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Critical Summary #1 (20%)

Date: Please see course schedule for assignment due date

Critical Summary #2 (25%)

Date: Please see course schedule for assignment due date

Quizzes 1-5 (20%)

Date: Please see course schedule for quiz dates

Final Take-home Exam (35%)

Due: Tue, Dec 10, 11:59 PM

6.2 Description of Assignments

Critical Summaries (#1 x 20%; #2 x 25%): 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 CourseLink. The submission dates for critical summaries are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. Note: these assignments will be submitted via Dropbox. 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.

Quizzes (5 x 4% each): These will be made available, and will be completed, on CourseLink. They will be made available on specific dates, for a window of 48 hours. The dates for the quizzes are indicated on the Reading and Assignment Schedule. Each quiz will deal with a portion of course material, which will be specified in class prior to the quiz date, and will consist of a variety of question types (e.g. multiple choice, true-false).

Take-home final exam (35%): This exam will consist of two essay questions. It will be cumulative of the semester. The exam will be distributed on the last day of classes and will be due 9 days after the start of the exam period: December 10th, 11:59 p.m. It will be submitted via Dropbox, on CourseLink.

7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

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

7.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

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

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

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

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 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.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

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

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

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

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
