



PHIL*2060 Philosophy of Feminism I

Winter 2019

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 2.00 - January 08, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course examines metaphysical, epistemological and ethical issues in feminist philosophy, including such topics as the nature and consequences of patriarchy, human nature, sexual divisions of labour, women's studies, rationalizations of inequalities and explorations into a contemporary feminist agenda for social, political and economic changes.

Pre-Requisite(s): 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

This course provides an introduction to philosophical issues in feminism and feminist issues in philosophy. In the first part of the course, 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, to understand the roots of contemporary feminist thought. In the last part of the course we examine issues of sex and gender.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10-11:20 a.m.

CRSC 117

1.4 Final Exam

I will distribute the final exam question in class on Thursday, April 4, and post it on CourseLink by midnight.

You may write the exam as a take-home or in class, or a combination. The exam is the same no matter how you do it, and of course it is open-book and open-note. If you write or finish the

exam in class, bring your laptop. I will not accept handwritten exams.

The in-class exam is Friday, April 12, 8:30-10:30 a.m. If you do the exam as a take-home, it is due no later than Friday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Instructor: | Karen Wendling |
| Email: | wendling@uoguelph.ca |
| Telephone: | +1-519-824-4120 x53229 |
| Office: | MCKN 359 |
| Office Hours: | Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., and by appointment. |

2.2 Teaching Assistant(s)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Teaching Assistant: | Kyle Novak |
| Email: | knovak@uoguelph.ca |

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

Required Text (Other)
All readings will be on CourseLink.

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. *Identify* and *critically evaluate* the practical and cultural significance of central issues in feminism;
2. *Understand, explain* and *assess* the significance of key concepts, in philosophy and beyond, such as equality, privilege, and sex and gender;
3. *Identify* and *critically evaluate* the central philosophical claims made in the readings;
4. *Argue* successfully for your own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others;

5. *Prepare* a piece of philosophical writing in which a position is supported by appropriate and well thought-through reasons.
-

5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Topic(s):

[R] = Reading on Content page of CourseLink
 [RH] = Reading Handout on Content page of CourseLink

Jan. 08: Introduction; some basic feminist concepts
 Jan. 10: A brief history of feminist thought in the west;
 read Handouts 1 [R]

Jan. 15: Socialism, nationalism & feminism; read
 Handouts 2 [R]
 Jan. 17: International feminism today

Jan. 22: *The Second Sex*; read Beauvoir [R], [RH]
 Jan. 24: *The Second Sex*, cont.

Jan. 29: **Test 1**
 Jan. 31: American radical feminism; read Millett [R]

Feb. 05: Sameness, difference & dominance; read
 MacKinnon [R], [RH]
 Feb. 07: MacKinnon, cont.

Feb. 12: Feminist theory and practice; read
 Mansbridge [R]
 Feb. 14: Theory by and about women of colour; read
 hooks [R]

Feb. 18-22: Reading Week

Feb. 26: Theory by and about lesbians/queer women;
 read Bunch [R]

Feb. 28: Reconceptualizing differences among women;
read Lerner [R]

Mar. 05: **Test 2**

Mar. 07: Privilege; read Alcoff [R], [RH]

Mar. 12: Alcoff, cont.

Mar. 14: Sex & gender; read Fausto-Sterling [R], [RH]

Mar. 19: Fausto-Sterling, cont.; **Essay due**

Mar. 21: Sex & gender; read Rubin [R], [RH]

Mar. 26: Rubin, cont.

Mar. 28: Sex & gender; read Butler [R], [RH]

Apr. 02: Butler, cont.

Apr. 04: Wrap-up

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Test 1 (22.5%)

Date: Tue, Jan 29, 10:00 AM - 11:20 AM, in class or elsewhere

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3

You may take the test in class or elsewhere. If you take the test in class, you can use your laptop to access the test and submit your answers through Courselink, or you can write by hand and submit the hard copy to me. If you choose to take the test outside of the classroom, you will access the test and submit your answers through Courselink.

The test will open on CourseLink at 10 a.m. and close at 11:20 a.m. I will have hard copies of the test for those who write in class.

Test 2 (22.5%)

Date: Tue, Mar 5, in class or elsewhere

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3

You may take the test in class or elsewhere. If you take the test in class, you can use your laptop to access the test and submit your answers through Courselink, or you can write by hand and submit the hard copy to me. If you choose to take the test outside of the classroom, you will access the test and submit your answers through Courselink.

The test will open on CourseLink at 10 a.m. and close at 11:20 a.m. I will have hard copies of the test for those who write in class.

Essay (30%)

Date: Tue, Mar 19, submit in class AND on CourseLink

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3,4,5

The essay will be 800-1000 words, 1200 words maximum, on an assigned topic. You will have some choice of topics. I will post the topics on CourseLink by midnight on Wednesday, March 5.

You must submit **both** a hard (paper) copy of your essay **and** an electronic copy to the Dropbox on CourseLink. The hard copy is for us to grade, and the electronic copy is your proof that you submitted the essay, and when. We will deduct 10% from your grade if you do not submit both hard and electronic copies.

Hard copies are due at the beginning of class.

Final Exam (25%)

Date: Fri, Apr 12, 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM, in class (room TBA) or elsewhere

Learning Outcome(s): 1,2,3,4,5

The final exam will be an essay of 600-900 words, 1000 words maximum, on an assigned question.

I will distribute the final exam question in class on Thursday, April 4, and post it on CourseLink by midnight.

You may write the exam as a take-home or in class, or a combination. The exam is the same no matter how you do it, and of course it is open-book and open-note. If you write or finish the exam in class, bring your laptop. I will not accept handwritten exams.

You must submit **both** a hard (paper) copy of your exam **and** an electronic copy to the Dropbox on CourseLink. The hard copy is for us to grade, and the electronic copy is your proof that you submitted the exam, and when. We will deduct 10% from your grade if you do not submit both hard and electronic copies.

7 Course Statements

7.1 No laptops or other electronics in class

Laptops **may not** be used in class unless (1) you are registered with Student Accessibility Services or (2) you have documentation indicating that you are taking notes for SAS.

Anyone using a laptop must have a sticker from SAS on the outside of their laptop.

No other electronic devices, including but not limited to cellphones, may be used without my permission.

Exceptions: You **may** use a laptop for the tests, and you **must** use one for the final exam.

7.2 Lecture

I do not post lecture notes.

7.3 E-mail is for emergencies only

If you have a question or a request, please speak to me in person, before or after class or in my office hours. I will not respond to questions or requests by e-mail that you could have made in person.

7.4 Academic Probation

If you are on Academic Probation, you have until **Friday, January 18** to tell me, so we can work together to help you do well in this course.

7.5 Tests

The tests will be open-book and open-note. They will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions.

7.6 Late penalties and assignment expectations: Essay

I give a two-day, no-questions-asked extension on the essay. Since it's no-questions-asked, please do not e-mail me if you decide to take the extension. For longer extensions, I may require a note from your Program Counsellor or a medical note.

Extensions on compassionate grounds must go through your Program Counsellor.

Normally, essays that arrive at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 19 will be returned in class on Thursday, March 28. Essays that arrive by the beginning of class on Thursday, March 21 will be returned in class on Thursday, April 4. Essays that arrive later will be returned at the final exam.

Late penalties on the essay are 2% per day, to a maximum of 15%. Saturday and Sunday count 2% each. Essays that come in after Thursday, March 28 will be graded by higher standards.

My late penalties are minor, but my 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 substantially less than the 10% or more that you will lose if you turn in an essay that has not been polished and proofread.

I will not accept late essays after Thursday, April 4.

* * * * *

Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your essay. I will not

accept an essay in which the relevant course readings and discussions are not central to your analysis. Outside research is unnecessary, and may lower your grade.

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.

Your essay and your exam must be spell-checked. We will deduct 10% from your grade on the essay for the kinds of mistakes that spell-check would have caught.

7.7 Assignment expectations: Final Exam

There are no extensions on the final exam. If you do not submit your exam by 10:30 a.m. on Friday, April 4, you will have to go through Academic Review.

* * * * *

Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your final exam. I will not accept an exam in which the relevant course readings and discussions are not central to your analysis. Outside research is unnecessary, and may lower your grade.

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.

Your exam must be spell-checked. We will deduct 10% from your grade on the exam for the kinds of mistakes that spell-check would have caught.

8 University Statements

8.1 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.

8.2 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>

8.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in the Undergraduate and Graduate 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>

8.4 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.

8.5 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.

More information can be found on the SAS website

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

8.6 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>

8.7 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.

8.8 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>
