



PHIL*2060 Philosophy of Feminism I

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - December 20, 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-Requisites: 2.00 credits or (1 of PHIL*1000, PHIL*1010, PHIL*1050)

1.2 Course Description

This course provides an introduction to feminist theory and movements. Throughout the course, we will question what feminism is, explore the nature of oppression, and examine issues of sex and gender. We will pay particular attention to racial, queer, and disabled insights into the pitfalls and potentials of feminist theory and movements. In the final portion of the course, we look briefly into the intersections of witchcraft and feminism. In doing so, we will explore the ways in which we can resist and rebel against oppressive conditions.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30-12:50

Location: CRSC 117

1.4 Final Exam

I will distribute the exam question in class on Thursday, April 2, and post it on CourseLink by midnight.

You may write the exam as a take-home or in-class, or a combination of both. The exam is the

same no matter how you do it, and it is open-book and open-note. You will need to submit it to CourseLink by the end of in-class exam period. I will not accept handwritten exams, so if you write or finish the exam in class, bring your laptop.

The in-class exam is Monday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. If you do the exam as a take-home, it is due no later than Monday, April 20, 1:30 p.m.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Shannon Boss
Email:	bosss@uoguelph.ca
Office:	MCKN 363
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., and by appointment.

2.2 Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant:	Bryan Richard
Email:	bricha09@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Required Text (Other)
All readings will be available through Course Reserves.

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 oppression, sex and gender, and privilege;
3. *Identify and critically evaluate* the central philosophical claims made in the readings;

4. 4. *Argue* successfully for your own view and be able to identify and critically evaluate patterns of argumentative reasoning in the work of others.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Week 1: What is Feminism?

- January 7: Introduction
- January 9: bell hooks, "Feminism as a Movement to End Sexist Oppression"

Week 2: Oppression

- January 14: Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"
- January 16: Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression"

Weeks 3 and 4: Sex/Gender Distinction: What is gender? What is a "woman"?

- January 21 & 23: Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction to *The Second Sex*
- January 28 & 30: Judith Butler, excerpts from Chapter 1 of *Gender Trouble*

Weeks 5 and 6: Intersectionality

- February 4 & 6: Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?" **and** Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics"
- February 11: Patricia Hill Collins, "Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images"
- **February 13: Midterm**

Reading Week (February 17-21)

Week 7: Queer Theory and Race

- February 25 & 27: Cathy J. Cohen, "Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics"

Week 8: Feminism and Disability Studies

- March 3 & 5: Susan Wendell, "Towards a Feminist Theory of Disability;" International Women's Day

Week 9: Difference and Loving, Knowing Ignorance

- March 10 & 12: María Lugones: "Playfulness, "World"-Traveling, and Loving Perception"

Week 10: "Feely Feminism"

- March 17 & 19: Sara Ahmed, Chapter 8 ("Feminist Attachments") from *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*; TedTalk, Soraya Chemaly, "The power of women's anger"

Week 11: Witchcraft and Feminism

- March 24: Excerpts from Kristen J. Sollée's, *Witches, Sluts, Feminists: Conjuring the Sex Positive*
- March 26: **1 of 4** chapters from *Becoming Dangerous: Witchy Femmes, Queer Conjurers, and Magical Rebels*

Week 12: TBD

Final: Monday, April 20, 11:30-1:30, location TBD

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Quizzes: $10 \times 2\% = 20\%$

DQ Reflections: $3 \times 8\% = 24\%$

Midterm: 26%

Final: 30%

6.2 Assessment Details

Weekly Quizzes (20%)

Due: Saturdays by 12:00 p.m.

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

The quizzes will test your knowledge of the readings assigned for the week previous to the Saturday that they are due. They will open on **CourseLink** on **Thursday at 10:00 a.m.** and close on **Saturday at noon**. There will be one every week, except during reading week, for a total of 12 throughout the semester. Each is worth 2 points and the lowest two grades will be dropped.

Discussion Question Reflections (24%)

Due: January 24th; February 28th; March 27th by 8:00 p.m.

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4

At least weekly, if not twice a week, there will be a discussion question (DQ) posed during class for us to discuss in small groups and as an entire class. You will write a reflection on **3** of the DQs presented throughout the course and submit it electronically via **CourseLink** by **8:00 p.m.** on the due date (**January 24, February 28, and March 27**). Each is worth 8% of your total grade.

You may choose which DQ you would like to respond to, though with one caveat. For the first reflection, you should choose a DQ posed on any lecture **between Jan. 7th and Jan. 21st**. For the second, you should choose a DQ posed **between Jan. 28th and Feb. 25th**. For the final reflection, you should choose a DQ posed **between Mar. 3rd and Mar. 24th**.

The reflections should be **between 600 and 800 words** and written in the **first person** (we want to hear your own thoughts/ideas about the issues we discuss!). I will discuss these reflections more in class and also provide you with a handout that outlines in more detail the expectations of the assignment.

Midterm (26%)

Date: Thu, Feb 13, 11:30 AM - 12:50 PM, in classroom or elsewhere

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3

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

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 **11:30 a.m.** and close at **12:50 p.m.** There will be hard copies of the test available for those who write in class.

Final (30%)

Date: Mon, Apr 20, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM, in class (room TBA) or elsewhere

Learning Outcome: 1, 2, 3, 4

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

The exam question will be distributed in class on Thursday, April 2, and posted on Courselink by midnight.

You may write it as a take-home or in class, or a combination of both. It is, of course, open-book and open-note. I will not accept hand-written exams, so if you finish the exam in class, bring your laptop. You must submit **both** a hard (paper) copy of your exam **and** an electronic copy to the Dropbox on Courselink. We will grade the hard copies, while the electronic versions will serve as proof that you submitted the exam and when. 10% will be deducted if you do not submit both hard and electronic copies.

If you don't plan on finishing the exam in class, then you can stop by my office hours (Tues/Thurs 1:00-2:30), which I will continue to hold throughout the exam period, to hand in your hard copy. If you stop by when I'm not around, then you can slip it into the envelope hanging on my door. If you do plan on finishing the final during the exam period, you will need to make sure you get a hard copy to me by the end of day on Monday, April 20.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Electronics in class

You are allowed to use laptops in class, though please remember that your activity on these devices can both benefit and harm your own learning and the learning of those around you. If your laptop use appears to be distracting in any way, I reserve the right to ask you to put the device away.

No other electronics (i.e., cellphones) may be used without my permission.

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

7.2 Lecture

I will post lecture slides on Courselink.

7.3 Academic Probation

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.

7.4 Tests

The midterm and final will be open-book and open-note. The midterm will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions. The final will be one essay question.

7.5 Late Penalties

Unexcused late submissions will be penalized 3% per day including weekends.

7.6 Assignment Expectations: DQ Reflections

You must submit them electronically via Dropbox on Courselink by 8:00 p.m. on the respective due date.

Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your response. Outside research is unnecessary.

You can use the citation format of your choosing, as long you remain consistent in doing so.

7.7 Assignment Expectations: Final Exam

There are no extensions on the final exam. If you do not (electronically) submit your exam by 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, you will have to go through Academic Review.

Course readings and discussions must be central to your analysis in your final exam. Outside research is unnecessary.

You can use the citation format of your choosing, as long you remain consistent in doing so.

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>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

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

8.3 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>

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.

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>

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>
