

DRAFT

PHL 351 Philosophy and Feminism

T/TH 8:00-9:15 Bldg: XXXX Rm: XXX
Dr. Jeffrey Stephenson (jeffrey.stephenson@montana.edu)
Office and hours: Wilson 2-149, T/TH 1100-1200 by appointment

Required books: Gilligan *In a Different Voice*
Okin *Justice, Gender and the Family*
Sommers *Who Stole Feminism*
French *The War Against Women*
Nussbaum *Sex and Social Justice*
Kournay *Philosophy of Science after Feminism*
The Cambridge Companion to Feminism in Philosophy (referred to as CC hereafter in the syllabus)

General course description

This is an upper division course in philosophy and feminism. The course readings will be structured according to the general outlines of the history of feminism (i.e., first wave, second wave and third wave readings) through a selection of representative materials assigned to students during the semester. At the conclusion of this course, students should have an understanding not only of the history of feminism, but of some of the philosophical treatments of the many contemporary, complex problems attached to feminism. Students should also develop during the semester an increased ability to read critically.

A primary goal of any philosophy course typically is to assist students in cultivating the analytic skills to interpret and critically to evaluate the views and theories expressed by philosophers, and this course is no exception. Toward this end, students will be provided the opportunity to develop and hone their analytic abilities during weekly class discussions, written work and examinations. Students are also encouraged in this type of course to develop their own positions in a fairly sophisticated way. This entails the exchange of ideas, which can become unpleasant exchanges if the discussion gets away from the following assumed foundation: Students, by definition, are not experts. We are here to consider the ideas of people who have thought long and deeply about specific areas of interest, to critique and criticize those ideas, and to exchange ideas and arguments with each other to gain clarity about what are feasible avenues for solutions to some very controversial problems. All students should treat fellow classmates with the same respect and compassion with which they would want to be treated as we move through this complex material.

Grading

<i>Exams/Attendance/Participation</i>	<i>% Value</i>	<i>Grade Scale</i>
Attendance	10	90-100 = A
Midterm Exam	40	80-89 = B
Final Exam	40	70-79 = C
Participation	10	60-69 = D
		0-59 = F

Attendance

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Attendance is required. There are two class meetings for 15 weeks, hence each absence will result in a reduction of the attendance portion of your grade by 1/30th. **If you are absent it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student; students should not ask to see the instructor's notes from lectures that students do not attend.**

Class participation

Class participation consists in arriving to class on time, staying for the duration of the class, and paying attention and maintaining engagement with your fellow students and the class material for the 1 hour and 15 minutes of class. Class commences at precisely 8:00 AM each class meeting. Consequently, you should arrive in class no later than 7:55 PM. If you arrive a few moments late, quietly enter the room and take a seat with the least disturbance possible. Arrive having read the assignment and prepared to discuss salient points or to ask relevant questions. **Philosophy is the kind of subject that demands one's attention; consequently, students should read the assigned material for each class meeting.** In this course you will be called on during class to respond to questions posed. Chronic tardiness and/or failure to be prepared for class will be academically penalized at the instructor's discretion.

Midterm Exam

Midterm exam preparation for this course will consist of a set of 8-10 topical area questions distributed to students at least one week prior to the exam date, related to text material and relevant class discussion points. The midterm exam will consist of a multiple choice/matching section, short responses to specific questions, and very short essay responses to more general questions. Further details, requirements and grading criteria will be discussed in class prior to the distribution of topical area questions. The midterm examination grade will serve as the assessment of student progress for the first half of the course material.

Final Paper or Final Exam (student option)

Students will have the option of completing a final examination or submitting a final analytic paper on a topic to be chosen in coordination with the instructor.

Final Exam Option

Final exam preparation and layout will be identical to the midterm exam preparation and layout, covering the second half of the class material.

Analytic Paper Option

One 7-10 page term paper (paper-clipped, not stapled; double spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman or New Courier font, 1 in. margins left/right and top/bottom) **on a topic selected with the guidance of the instructor** is required. Students have the option of submitting a completed draft of their papers for an ungraded pre-review, which draft will be due at the beginning of class at week 13; **pre-review paper submissions will not be accepted after this date.** These papers will be returned to students by the end of week 14, at which time students will have the option either of accepting the grade assessment as-is, or revising the paper and resubmitting. NOTE: **Undergraduate majors or minors in philosophy are required to give a class presentation of their term paper content; undergraduate non-majors or non-minors are encouraged to do so for extra credit.** Final **hard copy** term papers are due no later than 10:00 AM MT in my office on the day the final examination would have been administered, without exception.

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These papers are not intended to be research intensive, but analytic, critical, reflective papers requiring original thought. **Topics must be selected with input from the instructor.** Additional requirements and guidance related to the final term paper will be posted online.

Topical outline, reading assignments, exam and other important dates.

Reading assignments listed below are to be read for class discussion on that date.

TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE OR BEEPER OR PAGER BEFORE EACH CLASS.

Week 1 First Wave

28 AUG 2012: Course overview; history of feminist thought; Lloyd *Feminism in History of Philosophy: Appropriating the past* in CC.

30 AUG 2012: Wollstonecraft *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)

<http://www.bartleby.com/144/>; Stanton *Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions* (1848)

<http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html>

Week 2

4 SEPT 2012: Mill *The Subjection of Women* (1869)

<http://www.constitution.org/jsm/women.htm>

6 SEPT 2012: Engels *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* (1884)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm>

Week 3 Second Wave

11 SEPT 2012: de Beauvoir *The Second Sex* (1949)

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/2nd-sex/index.htm>

13 SEPT 2012: Gilligan

Week 4

18 SEPT 2012: Gilligan

20 SEPT 2012: Jaggar *Feminism in ethics: Moral justification* in CC; Held (posted online)

Week 5

25 SEPT 2012: Haslanger *Feminism in metaphysics: Negotiating the Natural* in CC; Okin Ch. 2.

27 SEPT 2012: Okin Ch. 4; Nozick reading (posted online)

Week 6

2 OCT 2012: Friedman *Feminism in ethics: Conceptions of Autonomy* in CC; Okin Ch. 5; Rawls reading (posted online)

4 OCT 2012: French; mid-term exam questions distributed.

Week 7

9 OCT 2012: French

11 OCT 2012: Sommers Ch. 1-6

Week 8

16 OCT 2012: Sommers Ch. 7-12; review for mid-term

18 OCT 2012: Mid-term examination.

Week 9:

23 OCT 2012: Nussbaum first half of Part I

25 OCT 2012: Nussbaum second half of Part I

Week 10

30 OCT 2012: Nussbaum first half of Part II

1 NOV 2012: Nussbaum second half of Part II

Week 11 Third Wave

6 NOV 2012: NO CLASS – Election Day.

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8 NOV 2012: Klein *Feminism and Psychoanalysis* in CC.

Week 12 Third Wave

13 NOV 2012: Schutte *Feminism and Globalization Processes in Latin America* (posted online)

15 NOV 2012: Intemann *25 Years of Feminist Epistemology* (posted online); Richards *Why Feminist Epistemology Isn't* (posted online)

Week 13

20 NOV 2012: Fricker *Feminism in epistemology: Pluralism without Postmodernism* in CC.

22 NOV 2012: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving.

Week 14

27 NOV 2012: Kournay Ch. 1

29 NOV 2012: Kournay Ch. 2-3

Week 15

4 DEC 2012: Kournay Ch. 4-5

6 DEC 2012: Paper presentations. ***ATTENDANCE DURING PRESENTATIONS IS MANDATORY FOR ALL STUDENTS. Failure to attend class will result in a reduction of 10 points for the final grade in this course.***

Week 16

TBA DEC 2012: Final Examination

NOTE: ***Papers submitted after this date and time will not be accepted, unless accompanied by documentation of serious medical emergency, where “serious” entails emergency hospitalization and the evident practical impossibility of submitting the paper by ____ DEC 2012.***