



**Philosophy 3419 Philosophy and Gender
Winter 2023 January 9 - April 11**

Instructor: TBD

E-mail: TBA

Class Hours: NA, WEB-BASED

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This third-year course takes up four contemporary topics in the field of feminist philosophy. We begin with a general overview of the relationship between philosophy and feminism. Next, we explore the political philosophy of liberalism, paying attention to feminist work on free speech (wrt pornography), and autonomy (wrt abortion). We then investigate feminist epistemology and its connections to science, performativity, intersectionality, and critical race theory. We end the course with a look at feminist ethics and the development of care thinking and its emphasis on relationality, a burgeoning cross-cultural field of study. Students will augment their critical thinking and reading skills by engaging with scholarly work that grapples with these important and sometimes controversial topics.

Course Materials

Readings, videos, and pod casts have been made available to the class via the course's D2L site. There are NO materials to purchase for this course.

Course Evaluation

Three Components:

- 1. Online Test: 40%: TBA;**
- 2. Participation Postings: 2 * 10% each, total 20%;**

Students are required to reflect upon and write about one important notion, debate, or concept of their choosing for **TWO different** articles. Students select the article they would like to work on **but must NOT include articles from the first two weeks of the course**

- 3. Final Exam: 40% TBA**

****Grading Notes re: Participation Postings:

Students must submit their work in the PARTICIPATION POSTINGS FORUM Participation postings will be assessed in a timely manner on the basis of:

1. the context: the instructor will look for: a. an understanding of how a notion, debate, or concept **emerges in relation** to other notions, debates, or concepts within an article, and; b. an understanding of **why** a notion, debate, or concept is **deemed important** within an article;
2. the quality of postings: the instructor will be specifically looking for precision in the interpretation of a particular notion/debate/concept and critique of the notion, debates, or concept in question;
3. the breadth of engagement with the reading materials: the instructor will examine the extent to



which postings incorporate and make connections **across course reading materials**.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: TOPIC #1: WHAT IS FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY?

Theme: Basics:

Read: Rae Langton, "Feminism in Philosophy," in *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy*, eds., Frank Jackson and Michael Smith, Oxford University Press, 200; see "Langton, Feminism and Phil" in Course Materials.

Theme: Is There Really a Problem Still?

Watch: Sarah-Jane Leslie, "Why Do Some Academic Disciplines Have Large Gender Gaps?" *Philosophical Conversations with Sarah-Jane Leslie*, Princeton University, NJ, January 15, 2015; see "Gender Gaps and Philosophy" in Course Materials or access at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uGfWl3vmJw>

WEEKS 2-5: TOPIC #2: FEMINISM AND LIBERALISM

Theme: What is Liberalism?; What's the Feminist Problem with Liberalism?

Read: Ruth Abbey, "The Feminist Critique of Liberalism," in *The Return of Feminist Liberalism*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011; see "Abbey, Liberalism" in Course Materials.

Free Speech?

Watch: Sarah-Jane Leslie, "Rae Langton - Pornography, Speech and Silence," *Philosophical Conversations with Sarah-Jane Leslie*, Princeton University, NJ, December 24, 2013; see "Free Speech" in Course Materials or access at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wi7-_aYPzsk

Choice and Autonomy?

Read: Judith Jarvis Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1 (1), Fall 1971; see "Thomson, Abortion" in Course Materials or access at: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~heathwoo/Phil160,Fall02/thomson.htm>

Responses to Thomson and Counter Responses:

Class Discussion on Discussion Board about reactions to Thomson's article and responses to those reactions.

TEST: TBD

WEEK 6: STUDY BREAK



WEEKS #7-10: TOPIC #3: FEMINISM AND EPISTEMOLOGY

1. Theme: Overview

Read: Marianne Janack, "Feminist Epistemology," IEP; see "Janack, Epist." in Course Materials or access at: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/fem-epis/#H8>

2. Theme: Feminist Science:

Read: A. Wylie and S. Sismondo, "Standpoint Theory, in Science," in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, second edition, ed., James D. Wright, Elsevier, 2015, pp. 324-330; see "Wylie and Sismondo, Standpoint" in Course Materials.

Read: Jennifer Saul, "Implicit Bias, Stereotype Threat and Women in Philosophy," (draft), In *Women in Philosophy: What Needs to Change?*, eds., Katrina Hutchison and Fiona Jenkins, Oxford Scholarship Online, January 2014; see "Saul, Bias" in Course Materials.

Listen (podcast): "Jennifer Saul on Implicit Bias," *Philosophy Bites*, December 7, 2013; see "Saul, Bias, Podcast" in Course Materials or access at http://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/7/c/e/7ce536a026a80638/Jennifer_Saul_on_Implicit_Bias.mp3?c_i d=6508854&expiration=1482452615&hwt=390ffa0166e070d663783839e512b2ec

3. Theme: Performativity:

Read: Sara Salih, "On Judith Butler and Performativity," *Judith Butler*, Sara Salih, Routledge, 2002; see "Salih, Performativity" in Course Materials.

4. Theme: Intersectionality:

Read: Sara Bernstein, "The Metaphysics of Intersectionality," in *Philosophical Studies*, 177, pp 321-335; see "Intersectionality, Bernstein" in Course Materials.

5. Theme: Critical Race Theory:

Read: Eliana Peck. "Active Ignorance, Antiracism, and the Psychology of White Shame" (in *Critical Philosophy of Race*, 2021); see: "Critical Race Theory, Philosophy" in Course Materials.

WEEKS 11-13: TOPIC #4: FEMINIST ETHICS

Read: Maureen Sander-Staudt's, "Care Ethics," IEP, 2011; see "Staudt, Care" in Course Materials or access at <http://www.iep.utm.edu/care-eth/>

Read: Alexis Shotwell's "Flourishing Is Mutual: Relational Ontologies, Mutual Aid, and Eating" (in *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, 2021); see "Flourishing" in Course Materials.