Phil 239: Philosophy and Feminism
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Audrey Yap (ayap@uvic.ca)
Office/Phone: CLE B307 (721-7510)
Office Hours: Thursdays: 10:00-12:00, and by appointment
Class Information: TWF 12:30-1:30 in CLE A203
Course Website: Through CourseSpaces. http://coursespaces.uvic.ca
Textbook: Jennifer Mather Saul, Feminism: Issues and Arguments and a course pack available in the UVic Bookstore. Additional readings will be available online. If you notice any accessibility issues with respect to the readings or course website, please let me know.

Course Outline: This course is an introduction to feminist philosophy. Though there is no single position that characterizes all of feminism, nor a single way in which feminists contribute to philosophy, there are many areas in philosophy in which gender and other social factors are significant. As such, we will read and engage with work that shows how attentiveness to social factors can be philosophically illuminating. Even on individual issues, we will get a sense of the wide variety of feminist voices and perspectives.

Communication: Office hours are held on a drop-in basis. You do not need to make an appointment to see me during those times, although the amount of time I can spend talking to any one person during office hours can depend on how many people are waiting. If you do want to schedule an appointment outside my office hours, try emailing me with a few suggestions for times that would work for you. I’m also happy to try and answer short questions either before or after class, time permitting. In general, email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don’t hear back from me after that time frame, feel free to try again in case your message went astray.

Coursework: The issues and discussions will involve considerable self-reflection and consideration of ways in which our identities affect our lives. Careful writing will be emphasized. This means that we will do our best to be careful of the ways in which we talk about potentially difficult issues, as well as being philosophically careful in doing justice to the arguments and ideas with which we are engaging. Given that, you will have a range of options in the class about how you will engage with the different topics.

In total, there will be eleven assignments to hand in for the class. Four of them will be short reflections about various readings (1 page each) which will be graded on a pass/fail basis. A genuine and respectful engagement with the material will be granted a pass. Each of these will be worth 2% of your final grade, for a total of 8%. There will also be four article summaries, each of which will be worth 8% of your grade, for a total of 32%. Finally there will be three longer papers, each of which will be worth 20% of your grade, for a total of
60%. There will be no exams. Each week on CourseSpaces, I will post a more specific list of guidelines about the different options for the week. You will be able to pick which option you prefer for each set of readings. Just make sure that you complete the correct number of each type of assignment. This means that you should be turning in one assignment most weeks, so plan accordingly.

Work on assignments or tests that has been copied, or has been provided or someone else to copy, will not be given credit. For more information on academic integrity, see the University Calendar.

Percentage grades correspond to letter grades according to the following scale:
90-100 = A+; 85-89 = A; 80-84 = A-; 77-79 = B+; 73-76 = B; 70-72 = B-; 65-69 = C+; 60-64 = C; 50-59 = D; 0-49 = F.

Schedule:

- Week One: Jan 5, 6, 7
  Topic: Identity and Oppression
  Reading: Shirley Green, “Looking Back, Looking Forward” (160-172)
  Marilyn Frye, “Oppression” (1-16)

- Week Two: Jan 12, 13, 15
  Topic: Identity and Oppression
  Reading: Iris Marion Young, “Five Faces of Oppression” (39-65)
  bell hooks, “Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory” (1-15)

- Week Three: Jan 19, 20, 22
  Topic: Work and Family
  Reading: Saul, Chapter 1 (1-44)
  Selma James, “Sex, Race, and Class” (online)

- Week Four: Jan 26, 27, 29
  Topic: Pornography and Silencing
  Reading: Saul, Chapter 3 (74-109)

- Week Five: Feb 2, 3, 5
  Topic: Pornography and Silencing
  Jennifer Hornsby, “Disempowered Speech” (127-147) (online)

- Week Six: Feb 16, 17, 19
  Topic: Feminism and Philosophy of Language
  Kristie Dotson, “Tracking Epistemic Violence, Tracking Practices of Silencing” (236-257) (online)
  Saul, Chap 6 (170-198)
• Week Seven: Feb 23, 24, 26  
  Topic: Feminism and Diverse Bodies  
  Reading: Saul, Chap 5 (140-169)  
  Talia Mae Bettcher, “Evil Deceivers and Make-Believers” (online)

• Week Eight: Mar 1, 2, 4  
  Topic: Feminism and Diverse Bodies  
  Reading: Sara Ahmed, “Embodying Diversity” (41-52) (online)  
  Alison Bailey, “Locating Traitorous Identities” (27-42) (online)

• Week Nine: Mar 8, 9, 11  
  Topic: Feminism and Diverse Bodies  
  Reading: Ashley Taylor “The Discourse of Pathology” (181-198) (online)  
  Anna Mollow, “Disability Studies Gets Fat” (199-216) (online)

• Week Ten: Mar 15, 16, 18  
  Topic: Respect for Cultures  
  Reading: Saul, Chap 9 (261-292)  
  Susan Okin, “Feminism, Women’s Human Rights, and Cultural Differences” (32-52) (online)

• Week Eleven: Mar 22, 23  
  Topic: Culture and Colonialism  
  Reading: Uma Narayan, “Through the Looking-Glass Darkly” (119-158)  
  Emma LaRocque, “Métis and Feminist” (53-71)

• Week Twelve: Mar 29, 30, Apr 1  
  Topic: Women’s “Different Voice”  
  Reading: Saul, Chap 7 (199-231)

Note: This syllabus is tentative, and should only be used to give a rough guide to the course schedule. Additional readings may be assigned, and dates may be changed if necessary.