

PHIL 239 A01: Philosophy and Feminism
CRN: 22330; Spring 2020, Elliott Building 061: 12:30 – 1:20

This course is an introduction to feminist philosophy. Feminist philosophers ask the same sorts of questions that all philosophers ask, but they begin from a perspective that attends explicitly to the relevance of sexist oppression (and other forms of oppression – e.g., based on race, class, and ability status) in doing so. For example, if we are interested in the nature of *rationality*, how might stereotypes of women, people of color, and people with disabilities as “irrational” complicate how we pursue questions about what it means to be rational? Feminist philosophy can thus be understood as a way of *doing* philosophy, a methodology that seeks to understand phenomena through a lens that takes seriously the nature and scope of oppression. In this course, we will survey a range of topics in feminist philosophy and learn how to apply feminist tools to problems and questions that emerge in our everyday lives.

Instructor	Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)
Office Hours	CLE B312, Tuesday & Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30 and by appointment.
Communication	You are welcome to visit me in office hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my office hours, email me to request an appointment. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronoun preferences as well.
Website	http://coursespaces.uvic.ca

Evaluation:

Grading Scale¹	A (Superior)	A+: 90-100; A: 85-89; A-: 80-84
	B (Good)	B+: 77-79; B: 73-76; B-: 70-72
	C (Adequate)	C+: 65-69; C: 60-64
	D (Minimal)	50-59
	F (Inadequate)	0-49

Assignments	Participation	10%	Throughout the course.
	Close Reading Assignment	10%	<i>Before or on</i> January 31.
	Mini Exam # 1	15%	February 12.
	Reflection Paper	20%	February 28.
	Final Paper	30%	March 18.
	Mini Exam # 2	15%	April 3.

Lateness All students have one *and only one* free extension to use on the reflection paper or final paper. Submit your assignment by the next class day (in class) following the due date and write “FREE EXTENSION” at the top of your assignment. All other late work without a documented illness or other serious personal circumstances will receive a penalty of 5 points per class day for up to 1 week after which the assignment will receive 0. Late work will not receive written feedback (though you are encouraged to attend office hours for feedback). Since students choose their own close reading assignment due dates, no late close reading assignments will be accepted.

Missed Exams I will not reschedule make-up exams without official documentation of a medical emergency, family emergency, or other serious circumstances.

¹ For further detail, see <https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-05/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html>.

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Technology

Some of you may require the use of technology in the classroom, so laptops are permitted. However, cell phones should be off. Students who use cell phones in the classroom will be called out and asked to put them away.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

It is your responsibility to understand the University's policy on academic integrity.²

Territory Acknowledgement: The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the University stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for Indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement.

² For more information, see <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2012/FACS/UnIn/UARe/PoAcI.html>.

Course schedule: (Complete the readings *prior* to coming to class!)

<i>Feminism</i>	Jan 7	Introduction to the course.
	Jan 8	bell hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression"
	Jan 10	Sara Ahmed, "Becoming Feminist: Feminism is Sensational"
<i>Oppression</i>	Jan 14	Feminism, Continued
	Jan 15	Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"
	Jan 17	Iris Marion Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"
<i>Intersectionality</i>	Jan 21	Young, Continued
	Jan 22	Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics"
	Jan 24	Crenshaw, Continued
<i>Sex & Gender</i>	Jan 28	Talia Mae Bettcher, "Trans Women and the Meaning of 'Woman'"
	Jan 29	Bettcher, Continued. <i>Suggested:</i> Robin Dembroff, "Why be Nonbinary?"
	Jan 31	<i>Last chance to submit Close Reading Assignment.</i> Madeleine Kenyon, "Male, Female, and 'Close Enough': Why the Dimorphic Sex/Gender Distinction in Medicine ought to be Replaced" (Guest Lecture)
<i>Gaslighting Women</i>	Feb 4	Kate Abramson, "Turning up the Lights on Gaslighting"
	Feb 5	Abramson, Continued.
	Feb 7	Abramson, Continued.
<i>Feminist Self-Care</i>	Feb 11	<i>In-class study session.</i>
	Feb 12	Mini Exam # 1.
	Feb 14	Audre Lorde, "A Burst of Light" <i>Suggested:</i> Sara Ahmed, "Selfcare as Warfare"
<i>Self-care, etc.</i>	Feb 17 – 21	READING BREAK (!!)
<i>Emotional Effects of Oppression</i>	Feb 25	Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression"
	Feb 26	Sandra Bartky, "Shame and Gender"
	Feb 28	Bartky, Continued. <i>Reflection Paper due.</i>
<i>Feminist Emotions</i>	Mar 3	Marilyn Frye, "A Note on Anger"
	Mar 4	Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger"
	Mar 6	Uma Narayan, "Working Together Across Difference: Some Considerations on Emotions and Political Practice"
<i>Resistance, Responsibility, & Solidarity</i>	Mar 10	Narayan, Continued
	Mar 11	Serene Khader, "Why are Poor Women Poor?"
	Mar 13	<i>In-class writing workshop.</i>

<i>Resistance, Responsibility, & Solidarity</i>	Mar 17	Sally Scholz, "Feminist Political Solidarity"
	Mar 18	Scholz, Continued
		Kathryn J. Norlock, "Perpetual Struggle"
	Mar 20	<i>Final Paper due.</i>
	Mar 24	Norlock, Continued
	Mar 25	Katie Stockdale, "Hope, Faith, and Solidarity"
	Mar 27	Stockdale, Continued
	Mar 31	TBD.
<i>Wrapping up</i>	Apr 1	<i>In-class study session.</i>
	Apr 3	<i>Mini Exam # 2.</i>