

PHIL 239 A01: Philosophy and Feminism CRN: 22292

This course is an introduction to topics in feminist philosophy with a focus on people's lived experiences, identities, and emotions under sexist oppression. We begin by exploring feminism itself, the nature of oppression and different forms of oppression, and intersectionality. We then use these feminist frameworks to consider various harms of oppression: the practices of gaslighting and dismissal as they affect the self, as well as trauma and shame. We then turn to the emotion of anger in response to oppression, which has inspired many feminists in the pursuit of a more just world. We end the course by considering how feminists can work together in solidarity with one another across difference in the pursuit of justice.

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.

Instructor	Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)
Student Hours (by Zoom)	Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:00 and by appointment. Please feel free to come visit me to chat about anything related to the course. I want to also emphasize that these hours can be used for mentorship as well for students who might want to chat with me about issues and questions that I can be helpful with (such as your studies and goals, or challenges learning during a global pandemic). I am committed, especially during this time, to provide a safe space for students who might want to drop in.
Communication	You are welcome to visit me in student (office) hours to chat about the course or philosophy any time. If you cannot make my student hours but have questions related to the course, please feel free to email me to request an appointment. I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours, but please note that I generally do not reply to emails on evenings or weekends. My pronouns are she/her; please feel free to let me know your name/pronouns as well.
Website	Brightspace.
Course Format	This course is <i>asynchronous</i> , which means that you can work through the course material largely at your own pace. Each week, you will complete readings, watch mini lectures, (sometimes) watch YouTube videos and review handouts, and participate in discussion threads. Although it is your choice when, during the week, to complete each task, make sure that you have all tasks complete crossed off the list before the next week begins.

Readings/Other Materials All required readings and other materials will be available on the course website.

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

Assignments²	Participation	15%	Throughout the course.
	Close Reading Assignment	10%	January 29, 11:59pm PST.
	Reflection Paper # 1	25%	February 12, 11:59pm PST.
	Reflection Paper # 2	25%	March 15, 11:59pm PST.
	Final Exam (take home)	25%	April 16, 11:59pm PST.

Lateness, Extensions, & Make-ups Please email me as soon as possible if you are facing challenges to completing course requirements by the due dates.

Course Policies:

Accessibility Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very 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 Accessible Learning as soon as possible. Staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.³

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,

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

² Detailed instructions for all assignments will be provided on the course website.

³ For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

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.⁴ Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

Note that the University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor for your written assignment without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are all examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.⁵

Copyright & Intellectual Property

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act.⁶ Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).⁷ Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Online Student Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>

⁵ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

⁶ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>.

⁷ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>.

to this experience, and the responsibility to help create, such an environment. *The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.*

Please be advised that by logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct, may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy. To report concerns about online student conduct: onlineconduct@uvic.ca.

Course schedule: Note that I may make minor changes to the scheduled readings. Students will be notified of any changes on the course website.

Week 1: Welcome! & What is Feminism? (January 11-15)

- Read syllabus in detail
- Fill out survey, "Getting to Know Students"
- Reading: bell hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression"
- Watch mini lectures
- YouTube Video: bell hooks and Laverne Cox, "What is Feminism?"

Week 2: What is feminism? II (January 18-22)

- Reading: Sara Ahmed, "Becoming Feminist: Feminism is Sensational"
- Watch mini lectures
- *Suggested* YouTube Video: Sara Ahmed, "What is Feminist Research?"

Week 3: Oppression (January 25-29)

- Reading: Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"
- Reading: Iris Marion Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"
- Watch mini lectures
- ***Close Reading Assignment due, Jan. 29, 11:59pm PST***

Week 4: Intersectionality (February 1-5)

- YouTube Video: Reading: Kimberlé Crenshaw, "What is Intersectionality?"
- Reading: Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics"
- *Suggested Reading*: Combahee River Collective Statement, "A Black Feminist Statement"
- Watch mini lectures

Week 5: Transformative Experiences (February 8-12)

- Reading: Rachel McKinnon, "Trans*formative Experiences"
- Watch mini lectures

Week 6: READING BREAK (February 15-19)

- *Self-care.*

**Week 7: Internalized
Oppression
(February 22-26)**

- **Reflection Paper #1 due February 22, 11:59pm PST**
- Reading: Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression"
- Reading: Nabina Liebow, "Internalized Oppression and its Varied Moral Harms: Self-Perceptions of Reduced Agency and Criminality"
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 8: Gaslighting
(March 1-5)**

- Reading: Kate Abramson, "Turning up the Lights on Gaslighting"
- *Suggested* YouTube Video: Official Trailer, Gaslight (1944)
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 9: Dismissal
(March 8-12)**

- Reading: Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Dismissal"
- *Suggested* Reading: Elizabeth Barnes, "The Hysteria Accusation"
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 10: Shame
(March 15-19)**

- Reading: Sandra Bartky, "Shame and Gender"
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 11: Trauma
(March 22-26)**

- **Reflection Paper # 2 due, March 15, 11:59pm PST**
- Elena Ruíz, "Structural Trauma"
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 12: Anger
(March 29-April 1)**

- Reading: Marilyn Frye, "A Note on Anger"
- Reading: Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger"
- Watch mini lectures

**Week 13: Solidarity
(April 5-8)**

- Reading: Uma Narayan, "Working Together Across Difference: Some Considerations on Emotions and Political Practice"
- Watch mini lectures

Week 14: Exam Study.

- Review instructions for take home exam.
- Ask any questions about the exam in our Course Q&A: Assignments discussion thread.

- *Take-home Final Exam due, April 16, 11:59pm PST*