

PHIL 239 (A01): Philosophy and Feminism
Mon & Thurs, 11:30-12:50, MacLaurin Building, D288
CRN: 12731



This course is an introduction to topics in feminist philosophy with a focus on people's lived experiences under sexist oppression. We begin by exploring the question of what it means to be a feminist, the nature of oppression and its different manifestations, and intersectionality. We then use these feminist frameworks to think about practices of dismissing and pathologizing members of oppressed social groups, and the epistemic and emotional harms of oppression. 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 to resist oppression, and how they can take care of one another during times of struggle.



Dr. Katie Stockdale (katiestockdale@uvic.ca)



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 1:00-2:00, and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.



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, please feel free to email me to request an appointment (in person or by Zoom). I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours but 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.



Our course website is on Brightspace.



All required readings will be available on the course website.

Territory Acknowledgement: We acknowledge and respect the ɫəkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Evaluation¹:



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



Reading Responses	25%
Close Reading Assignment	10%
Reflection Paper # 1	20%
Reflection Paper # 2	20%
Final Exam (take home)	25%



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.²



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

¹ For further detail, see <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/index.php#/policy/S1AAgoGuV>

² For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

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.³ 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.⁴



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.⁵ Violations may result in disciplinary action under the Resolution of Non-Academic

³ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php>

⁵ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/featured/copyright/>

Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300).⁶ Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.



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 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.

⁶ For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/AC1300.pdf>

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

<i>What is Feminism?</i>	Sept. 8	Introduction to the Course.
	Sept. 12	bell hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression"
	Sept. 15	Sara Ahmed, "Becoming Feminist: Feminism is Sensational"
<i>What is Oppression?</i>	Sept. 19	Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"
	Sept. 22	Iris Marion Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"
<i>Intersectionality</i>	Sept. 26	Kathryn T. Gines, "Black Feminism and Intersectional Analyses: A Defense of Intersectionality"
	Sept. 29	Close Reading Assignment Due, 2:00pm to Brightspace Intersectionality, Continued.
<i>Psychological Oppression</i>	Oct. 3	Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression"
	Oct. 6	Nabina Liebow, "Internalized Oppression and its Varied Moral Harms"
	Oct. 10	THANKSGIVING.
	Oct. 13	In-Class Writing Workshop
<i>Gaslighting</i>	Oct. 17	Kate Abramson, "Turning up the Lights on Gaslighting"
	Oct. 20	Abramson, Continued.
<i>Dismissing & Pathologizing</i>	Oct. 24	Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression"

***Emotional &
Epistemic Harms
of Oppression***

- Oct. 27 **Reflection Paper # 1 due, 2:00pm to Brightspace**
Elizabeth Barnes, "The Hysteria Accusation"
- Oct. 31 Talia Mae Bettcher, "Evil Deceivers and Make Believers: On Transphobic Violence and the Politics of Illusion"
- Nov. 3 Sandra Bartky, "Shame and Gender"
- Nov. 7 Saba Fatima, "On the Edge of Knowing: Microaggression and Epistemic Uncertainty as a Woman of Color"
- Nov. 10 READING BREAK
- Nov. 14 Jack M.C. Kwong, "Epistemic Injustice and Open-Mindedness"

***Anger &
Resistance***

- Nov. 17 Marilyn Frye, "A Note on Anger"
Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger"
- Nov. 21 Macalester Bell, "A Woman's Scorn: Toward a Feminist Defense of Contempt as a Moral Emotion"
- Nov. 24 **Reflection Paper # 2 due, 2:00pm to Brightspace**
Uma Narayan, "Working Together Across Difference: Some Considerations on Emotions and Political Practice"
- Nov. 28 Andrea Sullivan-Clarke, "Decolonizing 'Allyship' for Indian Country: Lessons from #NODAPL"
- Dec. 1 Myisha Cherry, "Solidarity Care: How to Take Care of Each Other in Times of Struggle"
- Dec. 5 *Exam Review.*
- Dec. 9 ***Take-home Exam due.***