

# PHIL 239 (A01): Philosophy and Feminism

Mon & Thurs, 8:30-9:50  
Cornett Building, room A229  
CRN: 22466



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 intersectionality. We then use these feminist frameworks to think about practices of dismissing and pathologizing women and other oppressed social groups, as well as the epistemic and emotional harms of oppression. We then turn to the emotion of anger, which has inspired many feminists in the pursuit of a more just world. We end the course by considering the nature of responsibilities to resist oppression, and how people can take care of one another in solidarity against injustice.



Dr. Katie Stockdale ([katiestockdale@uvic.ca](mailto:katiestockdale@uvic.ca))  
She/her  
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy



My office hours are Monday & Thursday, 10:00-11:00 and by appointment. You can find me in Clearihue B312.



You are welcome to visit me in office hours any time. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me to request an appointment. I do my very best to reply to emails within 24 hours (excluding weekends).



This course is *in-person only*. Class attendance is required, and lectures will not be recorded.



Our course website is on Brightspace.



All required readings will be available on the course website.

*Territory Acknowledgement:* We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəḡən 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.

### Evaluation<sup>1</sup>:



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

Interpretation of these grades is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you believe a grade that you receive from a TA is unfair, please begin by discussing it with the TA who graded your assignment in a respectful, open-minded manner. If you remain unsatisfied, you may appeal your grade to the instructor. The new grade will apply, whether it is higher or lower.



#### Course Components:

Participation	5%
Close Reading Assignment	15%
Mini Test # 1	15%
Critical Response Paper # 1	25%
Critical Response Paper # 2	25%
Mini Test # 2	15%

*Students who receive a cumulative percentage of 50% or higher on the above course components are considered to complete the course.*



All students have 5 allotted grace points. A 'grace point' delays the due date of an assignment by one day. Grace points can be used in any combination without justification but cannot be reused/traded. To use grace points, clearly indicate the number used with your assignment submission. Late work after grace points are used will be penalized 5% per day.

Students are responsible for tracking the number of grace points used (I also track them). Any attempt to re-use grace points in the hope that the grader does not notice will result in a deduction of 5% in addition to whatever late penalty applies.

Other extension requests will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be made using the 'Request for In-Course Extension' form.<sup>2</sup> Students should submit such a request *before* the deadline or *as soon as possible*. I will not accept late assignments after the last day of classes.

*Missed tests:* make-up tests will only be administered in exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness; death in family). Students who miss a test must apply for an academic concession using UVic's 'Requests for In-Course Extension' form.

Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with accommodation letters through the Centre for Accessible Learning whose accommodations speak directly to assignment due dates. Please keep in mind that accommodations through CAL are not blanket extensions on all work or a license to submit work after the course has ended.

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

<sup>2</sup> You can access this form here: [https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/forms/uvic\\_undergraduate\\_request\\_for\\_in-course\\_extension.pdf](https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-concessions-accommodations/request-for-academic-concession/forms/uvic_undergraduate_request_for_in-course_extension.pdf)

## University & Course Policies:

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Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are very welcome in this course. If you have a disability/health consideration that requires accommodation, please approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible.<sup>3</sup> Students who require academic accommodations must be registered with CAL to receive them.



Plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct are serious offences and will not be tolerated. It is students' responsibility to fully understand rules of academic integrity.<sup>4</sup> Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or suspension. The University's policy on academic integrity is not limited to plagiarism. Hiring an editor without the instructor's approval, submitting a paper from the Internet, and having someone else write even parts of your paper are examples of academic dishonesty. You should review this policy in detail.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, you may not use Chat GPT at all in this course, for any reason, for the purposes of brainstorming, writing, or editing your assignments. You are here to learn how to think, create, evaluate and communicate. The assignments in my courses are designed to teach *you* these skills. I trust that all students will honour this policy.



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



The University is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. Racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment will not be tolerated. 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. Students and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty's *Standards for Professional Behaviour*.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> For further information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/info/accessibility/index.php>

<sup>4</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/help/citation/plagiarism/index.php>

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup> For more information, see <https://www.uvic.ca/services/advising/advice-support/academic-units/student-code-of-conduct/index.php>

## **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

### ***What is Feminism?***

W1: Jan. 6

W1: Jan. 9

Introduction to the Course.

bell hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression"

### ***What is Oppression?***

W2: Jan. 13

W2: Jan. 16

Sara Ahmed, "Becoming Feminist: Feminism is Sensational"

Marilyn Frye, "Oppression"

W3: Jan. 20

W3: Jan. 23

Iris Marion Young, "Five Faces of Oppression"

Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression"

***Close reading assignment due Jan. 24, 11:59pm.***

### ***Intersectionality***

W4: Jan. 27

W4: Jan. 30

Kathryn T. Gines, "Black Feminism and Intersectional Analyses"

Intersectionality, Continued.

W5: Feb. 3

W5: Feb. 6

Nabina Liebow, "Internalized Oppression and its Varied Moral Harms"

Serene Khader, "Intersectionality and the Ethics of Transnational

Commercial Surrogacy"

### ***Gaslighting, Dismissing & Pathologizing***

W6: Feb. 10

W6: Feb. 13

Kate Abramson, "Turning up the Lights on Gaslighting"

Elizabeth Barnes, "The Hysteria Accusation"

***Critical response paper # 1 due Feb. 14, 11:59pm.***

W7: Feb. 17-21

FAMILY DAY & READING BREAK.

W8: Feb. 24

W8: Feb. 27

Sue Campbell, "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression"

***In-class short answer test # 1.***

W9: Mar. 3

W9: Mar. 6

Talia Mae Bettcher, "Evil Deceivers and Make Believers: On Transphobic Violence and the Politics of Illusion"

Sandra Bartky, "Shame and Gender"

### ***Emotional & Epistemic Harms***

W10: Mar. 10

W10: Mar. 13

Eva Kittay, "The Personal is Philosophical is Political: A Mother of a Cognitively Disabled Person Sends Notes from the Battlefield"

Jack M.C. Kwong, "Epistemic Injustice and Open-Mindedness"

***Critical response paper # 2 due Mar. 14, 11:59pm.***

### ***Anger & Resistance***

W11: Mar. 17

W11: Mar. 20

Marilyn Frye, "A Note on Anger"

Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger"

Sukaina Hirji, "Outrage and the Bounds of Empathy"

W12: Mar. 24

W12: Mar. 27

Heather Widdows, "No Duty to Resist"

Kathryn Norlock, "Perpetual Struggle"

W13: Mar. 31

W13: Apr. 3

Myisha Cherry, "How to Take Care of Each Other in Times of Struggle" (Zoom)

***In-class short answer test # 2.***