

Feminist Philosophy (Phil 303)

Professor: Dr. Williams
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Office Hours: MW 1-3; T 5-6:30 or by apt.
Class Time/Location: T (6:30-9:00)/Daniel Building 218

Course Description

In this course, we will examine some of the philosophical interpretations regarding the social and personal realities that shape women's lives. Topics include, but are not limited to, the influential aspects of gender socialization, sexuality, violence against women, abortion, pornography, and ecological feminism.

Required Texts/Readings

- *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*, Jennifer M. Saul, 2003.
- *Ecofeminist Philosophy*, Karen J. Warren, 2000.
- Additional required readings on E-Reserve

Learning Objectives

Students are expected to:

- analyze the social and personal significance of gender in contemporary life by way of philosophical perspectives;
- demonstrate knowledge of key concepts and arguments in feminist theory;
- write and speak skillfully about feminist/gender issues;
- write and orally defend a final thesis paper.

Methods of Evaluation and Grade Distribution

- Midterm = 30%
 - Short writing assignments = 25%
 - Current event report = 15%
 - Final paper = 30%
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- **Midterm exam:** an in-class exam on key concepts and arguments in feminist theory.
 - **Current event report:** students present examples of some of the feminist issues discussed in class that occur in society today. Class presentation and written work required.
 - **Short writing assignments** (1-2 pages): I will assign these periodically during the semester to complement our readings and/or class discussions.
 - **Final Paper** (6-10 pages): a paper that defends a philosophical thesis about a feminist issue. Outline and class presentation required.

Grading Scale (percentage): A =100-94; A- = 93-90; B+ = 89-87; B =86-84; B- =83-80; C+ = 79-77; C =76-74; C- =73-70; D =69-60; F =below 60

Late Work

All work is due at the beginning of class. One letter grade will be deducted for every day your work is late. Handwritten work will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Attendance

Attendance is required in this class. Because we meet only once a week, I have a very strict attendance policy. If you miss class it needs to be for a legitimate reason. If a student misses two or more classes, I have the right to drop her/him from the class. I will record attendance at every class meeting. You are required to arrive at class on time and remain for the entire period in order to be counted as present.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will be handed in accordance to Wofford's honor code, which can be found at http://www.wofford.edu/studentlife/honor_code.pdf

Disability

If you have a disability that requires my attention please let me know as soon as possible so that I may accommodate you.

Reading schedule and due dates (subject to change)

Week 1--- Feb. 7 *Oppression*

E-Reserve

- Treichler and Kramarae, "Feminism"
- Frye: "Oppression"
- Bartky: "On Psychological Oppression"

Week 2 --- Feb. 14 *The Concept of Gender*

E-Reserve

- Gould, "X-A Fabulous Child's Story"
 - Fausto-Sterling, "Should There Be Only Two Sexes?"
- Video: *Middle Sexes*

Week 3 --- Feb. 21 *Femininity*

- Saul, "Feminine Appearance" (ch. 5)

E-Reserve

- Barky, "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power"
- Video: *Killing Us Softly 3*

Week 4 --- Feb. 28 *Violence and Sexuality*

E-Reserve

- Sheffield, "Sexual Terrorism"
- Griffen, "Rape: The All-American Crime"
- Stoltenberg, "Rapist Ethics"
- Stoltenberg, "How Men Have a Sex"

Video: *The Bro Code*

Week 5 ---March 6 *Pornography*

- Saul: "Pornography" (ch. 3)

Video: *Dreamworlds 3*

Week 6 ---- March 13 *Abortion*

- Saul: “Abortion” (ch. 4)
E-reserve
- Judith Thompson: “A Defense of Abortion”

Week 7 --- March 20 *Feminist Ethics*

- Saul: “Women’s Different Voice” (ch. 7)

Midterm exam

Week 8 --- March 27 *Ecofeminist Philosophy*

- Warren: Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Week 9 --- April 3 *Spring Break*

Week 10 --- April 10

- Warren: Chapters 4, 5 and 6
- Video: *Flesh*

Week 11 --- April 17

Current event presentations

Week 12 --- April 24

- Warren: Chapters 7 and 8

Final paper outlines due

Week 13 --- May 1

- Warren: Chapter 9
- Student presentations of paper outlines

Week 14 --- May 8

Student presentations of paper outlines

Final Paper Due: **May 14 at 2:00 pm**