

PHIL/WMST-272: Moral and Philosophical Issues of Gender in Society.

Fall 2013

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Course summary. Feminist thought has always been a conversation between different perspectives on feminist issues, and even different perspectives on what *counts* as a feminist issue. In this course, we will take up several of these perspectives and put them in dialogue with one another to explore the nature of sexism, oppression, gender, and equality.

Course requirements. It is essential that you keep up with the readings, attend each class, and participate actively in class discussions. You must complete each assignment in a timely fashion. In order to pass the course, you must at least satisfy each of these requirements.

Two short papers (each worth 15% of the final grade). For the first paper (2 pages), you will reconstruct an author's view, and I will allow re-writes. For the second, slightly longer paper (3-4 pages), you will present an author's view and articulate an objection.

Two longer papers (each worth 20% of the final grade). In these papers, you will present an author's view, articulate an objection to that view, and provide a response on the author's behalf. (5 pages each)

Final exam (10%). The exam will consist of short answers and of one short essay.

Participation (20%). This course will depend on your active engagement with the material in class. You will need to be prepared to contribute actively each day, and to help make the environment one conducive to everyone's participation – one that is open, respectful, and positive.

Attendance. Each student gets one free absence per session. Beyond that, you must speak to me about any absence, preferably beforehand. Be aware that I will be unlikely to excuse any absence that the university does not require me to excuse. For each unexcused absence, you will be docked 3 points off of your final grade. For each failure to speak with me, you will lose an *extra* 2 points off of your final grade.

The Honor System. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had a student-led honor system for over 100 years. Academic integrity is at the heart of Carolina and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led Honor System is responsible for adjudicating any suspected violations of the Honor Code and all suspected instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the honor system. Information, including your responsibilities as a student is outlined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected.

Required texts. You must have available copies of *Theorizing Feminisms*, ed. Hackett and Haslanger; and *The Politics of Reality*, Marilyn Frye. Copies are available at the bookstore (and elsewhere). All other readings will be available through the course site.

Tentative Schedule

August 20 Introduction to the course.

Unit 1. Liberal Feminism

August 22 Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (selections)

August 27 John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (H&H)

August 29 Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (selections)

September 3 Martha Nussbaum, "Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings" (H&H)
Susan Moller Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family* (selections)

September 5 Discussion. First paper due. No new reading.

Unit 2. Gynocentric Feminism

September 10 Iris Marion Young, "Humanism, Gynocentrism, and Feminist Politics" (H&H)

September 12 Jane Addams, "Women and Public Housekeeping" (H&H)
Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" (H&H)

September 17 Carol P. Christ, "Why Women Need the Goddess: Phenomenological, Physiological, and Political Reflections" (H&H)
Alice Walker, "The Only Reason You Want to Go to Heaven Is That You Have Been Driven Out of Your Mind (Off Your Land and Out of Your Lover's Arms)" (H&H)

September 19 Discussion. No new reading.

Unit 3. The Ethics of Care

September 24 Carol Gilligan, "Moral Orientation and Moral Development" (H&H)

September 26 Nel Noddings, "Care, Justice, and Equity"

October 1 Discussion. No new reading.

Unit 4. Revolutionary Feminism

October 3 Joreen, "The Bitch Manifesto"

October 8 Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex* (selections)

October 10 Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex* (selections)

October 15 Fall Break

Unit 5. Social Approaches

October 17 Emma Goldman, "Woman Suffrage" (H&H)

October 22 Marilyn Frye, "Oppression" (F)

October 24 Sandra Lee Bartky, "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power" (H&H)

Marilyn Frye, "Sexism" (F)

October 29 Catherine MacKinnon, "Difference and Dominance: On Sex Discrimination" (H&H)

October 31 Catherine MacKinnon, "Desire and Power" and "Sex and Violence: A Perspective" (H&H)

November 5 John Stoltenberg, "Confronting Pornography as a Civil Rights Issue" (H&H)

November 7 Lisa Duggan, Nan D. Hunter, and Carole S. Vance, "False Promises: Feminist Antipornography Legislation" (H&H)

November 12 Marilyn Frye, "Willful Virgn" (H&H)

bell hooks, "Seduced by Violence No More" (H&H)

Unit 6. Intersectionality

November 14 Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House"
Trina Grillo, "Anti-Essentialism and Intersectionality: Tools to Dismantle the
Master's House" (H&H)

November 19 Patricia Hill Collins, "The Politics of Black Feminist Thought" (H&H)

November 21 Marilyn Frye, "On Being White" (F)

November 26 *Third paper due.*

Marilyn Frye, "In and Out of Harm's Way" (F)

November 28 *Thanksgiving break.*

December 3 *Catch-up and review.* No new reading.