

Phil M187: Philosophical Analysis of Issues in Feminist Theory
Gender, Oppression, and Social Construction

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00a.m.-11:50p.m.
Dodd 175

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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Course Overview

This class engages some of the central issues in the feminist philosophy and the philosophy of oppression more broadly, with a special focus on the implications of feminist theory for intellectual activity, philosophical and scientific methodology, and the import of speech. While not an introductory course, we will cover a wide range of readings in feminist philosophy, focusing for the most part on recent work in analytic feminist philosophy. We will begin by considering the nature of feminist philosophy and the nature of discrimination and oppression, followed by a consideration of the ways in which oppression is manifest and enacted in ordinary life as well as philosophical and scientific practice, concluding with a consideration of our concepts of social kinds like gender and race and what progress in combating oppression might look like from a conceptual and linguistic point of view. Many readings are drawn from an anthology, but we will also engage in a sustained reading of two recent works of feminist philosophy, Sally Haslanger's *Resisting Reality* and Kate Manne's *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*.

Students will become familiar with philosophical theorizing about feminist concerns and develop tools for thinking about issues of oppression in a variety of contexts and from various philosophical perspectives. Students will learn how philosophical critiques of social structures can have implications for one's own life, relationships, attitudes, and projects.

Course Materials

Required: Cudd, Ann E. and Andreasen, Robin O. (2005). *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology*. Blackwell Publishing.

Required: Haslanger, Sally (2012). *Resisting Reality: Social Construction and Social Critique*. Oxford University Press.

Required: Manne, Kate (2017). *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*. Oxford University Press.

All other readings will be made available on the CCLE website. Please check the course website frequently for updates.

Difficulty

This is an upper-division class in feminist philosophy. It requires sustained engagement with the ideas and arguments of the course, careful and critical reading of difficult texts, and the development and exercise of the skills of philosophical writing.

In short, to excel in this course, you should expect to:

- Do all assigned readings *and engage* (take notes, evaluate, etc.)
- Attend lecture *and engage* (take notes, ask questions, etc.)
- Complete all of the online reading responses (see below)
- Work hard on papers (and submit them on time)

It is recommended that you have taken at least one philosophy class prior to this one.

Course Requirements

1. Reading responses, to be completed **by 8pm** on Tuesdays.
2. Two writing assignments (4-6 pages, 6-8 pages).

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

- *Reading Responses*: 15%
 - *Shorter paper*: 30%
 - *Final Paper*: 55%
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- Students needing an academic accommodation because of a disability should notify the Center for Accessibly Education (CAE) within the first two weeks of quarter.
 - CAE is at A255 Murphy Hall; their phone number is (310) 825-1501.

- Late assignments will be docked by **one-third of a letter grade**, and docked an additional third of a letter grade every twenty-four hours after the due date.
- No assignments will be accepted after one week beyond the due date.
- No extensions will be granted within 24 hours of a deadline.

Reading Responses

By Tuesday at 8pm each week, students submit one *brief* reading summary (one or two paragraphs, on any one of the week's readings that have not been covered in lecture by the time of submission), and one or two good questions about any of the week's readings through the course website. 1/3 of the grade will be determined by completion. 1/3 will be determined by the quality of the summary. 1/3 will be determined by the quality of the questions. This is designed to be straightforward if you have done at least one of the readings. Late submissions are not accepted.

Papers

SHORTER PAPER (4-6 pages)

Due _____ at 11:59 p.m. to Turnitin.

FINAL PAPER (6-8 pages)

Due _____ at 11:59 p.m. to Turnitin.

Academic Integrity

Be familiar with and abide by UCLA's policies regarding academic and intellectual integrity: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>

In accordance with these policies, any suspected plagiarism will be forwarded to the Dean of Students. Do not plagiarize. Cite *all* of your sources.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

If there are no line spaces between the readings for a given week, it is recommended that you do all of that week's readings before Monday's lecture. If there is a line space between the readings, it is recommended that you concentrate on the first group for Monday's lecture and the second group for Wednesday's lecture. This means that for our first meeting, you should read all three of the readings under the heading "Feminism and Oppression," all of which can be found in the Cudd and Andreasen anthology.

UNIT 1: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

Week 1: Feminism and Oppression

Read: Introduction from *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir

Read: "Sexism", Ann E. Cudd and Leslie E. Jones

Read: "Oppression", Marilyn Frye

Week 2: Difference

Read: "Five Faces of Oppression", Iris Marion Young

Read: "Natures and Norms", Louise M. Antony

Read: "Difference and Dominance: On Sex Discrimination", Catherine MacKinnon

UNIT 2: OPPRESSION: SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY, AND LANGUAGE

Week 3: Science and Epistemology

Read: "Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense", Elizabeth Anderson

Read: "Can there be a Feminist Science?", Helen Longino

Read: "Epistemic Oppression and Epistemic Privilege", Miranda Fricker

Read: "Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology: What is 'Strong Objectivity'?", Sandra Harding

Week 4: Feminist Ethics and Philosophy

Read: "Feminism in Ethics: Conceptions of Autonomy", Marilyn Friedman

Read: "The Need for More than Justice", Annette C. Baier

Read: "Gender and Moral Luck", Claudia Card

Read: "Women and Cultural Universals", Martha Nussbaum

Read: "Gender and the Complexity of Moral Voices", Michele Moody-Adams

Week 5: Subordinating Speech and Silencing

Read: "Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts" (1993) by Rae Langton

Read: "Disempowered Speech" (1995) by Jennifer Hornsby

Read: "Scorekeeping in a Language Game" (1979) by David Lewis

Read: "Scorekeeping in a Pornographic Language Game" (1999) by Rae Langton and Caroline West

****SHORTER PAPER DUE _____ AT 11:59 p.m. TO TURNITIN****

Week 6: Hate Speech and Oppressive Forces

Read: "The Authority of Hate Speech" (2017) by Rae Langton

Read: "Hate Speech and the Epistemology of Justice" (2016) by Rae Langton

UNIT 3: MISOGYNY

Week 7: Men, Women, and Oppression

Read: Selections from *How to do Things with Pornography* (2015) by Nancy Bauer

Read: Selections from *The Will to Change* (2003) by Bell Hooks

Week 8: Studying Misogyny

Read: *Down Girl*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapter 2

Week 9: Patterns and Attitudes

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapter 3

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapter 4

Week 10: Himpathy

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapter 5

Read: Excerpt from *Less Than Human: Why we Demean, Enslave, and Exterminate Others* (2011) by David Livingstone Smith

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapter 6

Week 11

Read: *Down Girl*, Chapters 7 and 8

Read: *Down Girl*, Conclusion

UNIT 4: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION, GENDER, AND CHANGE

Week 12: Haslanger, Social Construction

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapters 2 and 6

Week 13: Haslanger, Gender and Race

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapters 7 and 8

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapters 10 and 11

Read: "Intersectionality and Ameliorative Analyses of Race and Gender" (2013) by
Karen Jones

Week 14: Haslanger, Language and Knowledge I

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapters 12 and 13

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapters 14 and 15

Week 15: Haslanger, Language and Knowledge II

Read: *Resisting Reality*, Chapter 17

Read: "Notes from the Resistance: Some Comments on Sally Haslanger's *Resisting Reality*"
(2013) by Charles W. Mills

Read: "Race, Intersectionality, and Method: a Reply to Critics" (2013) by Sally
Haslanger

****FINAL PAPER DUE _____ AT 11:59 p.m. TO TURNITIN****