



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 337 Lec 1 – “Philosophy, Feminism and Gender”

Winter Term 2016

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 11:00-12:15 pm in SA 017

Instructor: David Boutland

Office: SS 1220

Office hours: T 12:30-2pm, or by appointment

Phone: N/A

E-mail: cdboutl@ucalgary.ca

Texts:

1) *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology*, ed. by A.E. Cudd and R.O. Andreasen, Blackwell Publishing, 2005. ISBN: 978-1-4051-1661-9 paperback

2) Additional assigned reading is available through Library e-journals. These are posted as pdf files on D2L, along with citation information.

Course description:

Traditionally, philosophy has had a complex and contentious relationship with feminism. While philosophy has played an essential role in the emergence of feminism, most notably through its capacity to question inherited values and norms, the discipline of philosophy has played a major role in the perpetuation of sexism and androcentrism within Western culture. In this course, we will consider this dual role played by philosophy in the history of feminism and sexism. We will start with a survey of the history of feminist thought in philosophy, highlighting three recognized "waves" of feminism. We will then focus our attention on examining how feminist philosophers have challenged ideas that support sexism and contribute to the oppression of women. The second half of the course will focus on the emergence of gender studies within feminism. Some of the themes we will address in this section of the course include an analysis of sex and gender, and the differences between them, as well as an examination of the gendered nature of language, knowledge and value. We will end the course by considering the ultimate goals of feminist and gender philosophy, and the path for achieving such goals.

The course will consist of lectures and class discussions based on assigned readings. A significant part of the training for this course rests on the attentive reading of the philosophical texts themselves. Students will know in advance which texts to read before class and are expected to be active participants in class discussions. Students should be aware that it will be difficult to be successful in the course without regular participation in the classroom. Please do take that into account before signing up.

Assessment:

| <i>Weight</i> | <i>Assignment</i> | <i>Due dates</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 20 % (5 x 4%) | Reading Responses | Weekly (Tuesday) |
| 20% | Discussion Facilitation | Weekly (starting Feb 2) |
| 25% | Midterm | March 1 |
| 5% | Paper: Stage 1 | March 17 |
| 30% | Paper: Stage 2 | April 12 |

Reading Responses

The reading responses aim to ensure that you have done the readings for that week and are ready to take an active part in class discussion. Students are required to submit 5 reading responses over the course of the semester, each worth 4% of the final grade. Reading responses must be submitted in class on Tuesday each week, (no email submissions). Students are free to choose which weeks they wish submit a reading response, but only one reading response per week will be accepted

To complete your reading response, include the following items in response to one of the assigned readings for that week:

- 1- Identify what you take to be the core idea of the text (its objective) and summarize it in no more than four sentences. (10 points)
- 2- Briefly present one problem with which you were confronted while reading this text (either because an idea was unclear or because you found it disputable). (10 points)

Discussion Facilitation

Discussions will involve the whole class. However, starting in the first week of February, students will be in charge of leading/facilitating the discussion. In groups of 3 or 4, students will be asked to present a 10-15 minute presentation discussing an aspect of their chosen reading that was of special interest and explain why they found it challenging/stimulating. Students may use a variety of other examples, stories, videos, questions and other sources that may help to facilitate the discussion. If a text had a powerful emotional effect on you, you may share your impressions. If the text reminded you of a concrete situation you read about, witnessed or experienced, you can mention it. Students should draw a connection between these cases and some aspect of their chosen reading. In addition to the presentation, students are required to submit an 2-3 page write up of their presentation.

Midterm

The midterm will be written in class. It will include both short answer and essay questions. A student who fails to show up for the scheduled exam, without an excuse accepted by me, will receive a grade of "F" (0%).

Essay

One formal essay, defending a clear thesis on a topic drawn from the course syllabus and content, will be submitted in two stages for grading. The first stage will consist of a proposed thesis statement, tentative outline, at least three bibliographical entries (one being an assigned reading, the other two being sources independently obtained by the student), and critical review of the two independent

sources. The second stage will be the completed essay of 2000-2500 words. More information on both stages will be provided at a later date. A student submitting either stage after the due date will be penalized one letter grade per day (or portion thereof) that it is late.

*NOTE: Submission of the 1st Stage of the essay assignment is mandatory. Submission of the 2nd Stage will not be accepted under any circumstances if the 1st Stage was not submitted.

To pass this course, you must complete all assignments. Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A- paper will receive a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. Late assignments can be submitted by email but will not receive comments. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported to the Faculty and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment. Even copying one or two sentences constitutes plagiarism.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the U of C calendar:

A: Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

B: Good — clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.

C: Satisfactory — basic understanding of the subject matter.

D: Minimal pass — marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.

F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

Grading scale:

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 97-100 | A | 93-96 | A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 | B | 83-86 | B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 | C | 73-76 | C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 | D | 60-66 | | |
| F | 59 and below | | | | |

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2016:

Jeremy Fantl (Undergrad Director) jfantl@ucalgary.ca

Chris Framarin chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)