



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 499.07 Lec 01
Feminist Philosophy of Law
Winter 2023
MWF, 1:00-1:50pm, SA 124

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dr. Jennifer Warriner

Email: jennifer.warriner@ucalgary.ca (You can expect a response from me in 24-48 hours.)

Office: TBA

Office Hours: Afternoons, by appointment. (Send me an email and we will set something up.)

COURSE INFORMATION

Feminist legal theory is both a theoretical inquiry and a political project. Feminist legal thinkers argue that while all persons are entitled to equal treatment under the law, patriarchal norms and power structures embedded into the legal system and into legal reasoning frameworks have led to women being denied equal treatment. Feminist legal thinkers aim not only to identify these structures, but also to change them in the interests of promoting equality. In this course, we will consider general themes and debates within feminist legal theory, including how the law sees itself, how the law plays a role in upholding systemic inequality, the social construction of gender, intersectionality, pornography, and the issue of consent, among other topics. No previous knowledge of feminist theory is necessary. This course is intended for philosophy majors and minors, students considering law school, and anyone critical of the status quo.

PREREQUISITE(S)

6 units in courses labelled Philosophy with 3 units at the 300 level or above. (Please see University Calendar for more description.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will gain an understanding of:

- Basic concepts and themes in feminist legal theory
- How the legal system sees itself
- Feminist theories, critical race theory, and queer theory
- Current debates within feminist legal theory, including the issue of consent, transgender rights, pornography, sex work, etc.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

None. All readings are available online or will be posted on D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- Three 5–7-page papers, each worth 30%, due on Friday, February 17th; Friday, March 17th; Wednesday, April 19th
- Participation: 10%

Papers: Papers should be 1500-2000 words, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 2.54cm margins. Papers should provide a clear thesis statement, exposition on a philosopher's position, and an argument in response to this position. I will provide topics. All papers should be submitted to D2L.

For all written assignments, the quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of the work. See for further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Participation: Earning the participation grade in this course requires active, informed, and consistent contributions to class discussion *over the course of the semester*. Please note that "class discussion" includes asking questions or making claims during lecture; posting a discussion question or news article about feminist legal issues on the D2L discussion board; sending me an email with a question or claim about course content.

There is no midterm or final exam in the course.

COURSE POLICIES

There will be no "extra-credit" assignments available to any student for any reason.

Given that all work is submitted electronically, please screenshot the D2L submitted field or have the confirmation email ready to show me, just in case of systems issues.

GRADING SCALE

		A: 93-100	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: <60

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker, and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).