



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI 417 L01
Feminist Political Theory
Fall Block Week 2021**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Regina Cochrane
OFFICE: SS 706
EMAIL: r.cochrane@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 11:00-12:30 (during the regular Fall term: please confirm attendance by prior email) and by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: MTWRF, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM: Aug 30 - Sep 3, 2021
DELIVERY METHOD: online synchronous (lectures: zoom; small-group assignments: zoom break-out rooms; films: zoom or streaming; quizzes: D2L; office hours: zoom or telephone)
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: POLI 310 or POLI 453

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

One of the most significant and innovative trends in recent political thought has been the rise and rapid development of the new subfield of feminist political theory. Inspired by the second-wave women's movement, which burst onto the worldwide political stage in the 1960s, and the challenge launched by this movement to mainstream, "male-stream" notions of the political via its key claim that the personal is political, feminist political theory calls into question the gendered subtext of both classical and contemporary political theory. In so doing, it widens the purview of what has conventionally been considered to be political by taking strong issue with the sharp public/private divide characteristic of both classical and contemporary of political thought.

This course will encompass a comparative and critical survey of feminist political theory, beginning with its origins in second-wave feminism and continuing up to present-day developments and debates. Although feminist political theory today includes a wide spectrum of orientations, for most practical purposes contemporary feminist political theories can be grouped into the following major categories: liberal, radical/cultural, Marxist/socialist, and postmodern/postcolonial feminist political theories. In order to facilitate this comparative analysis, the reading and discussion of political theory/political philosophy – plus a few key feminist theory – texts from each of these categories will be supplemented by in-class group assignments involving the analysis of documentary films exploring women's reality worldwide through the lenses of liberal, cultural, socialist, and postmodern feminisms.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. To become familiar with the basic terminology, the main theoretical assumptions, and the characteristic political stances associated with contemporary liberal, radical/cultural, Marxist/socialist, and postmodern/postcolonial feminist political theories.
2. To evaluate the tenability of some of the central claims made by these contemporary feminist political theories by examining the mutual critiques that they offer of each other.
3. To compare the stances taken by liberal, cultural, socialist, and postmodern feminists on central issues in contemporary feminist political practice associated with family life, paid/unpaid work, and political participation. .

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S): None

Course readings will be taken from selected book chapters and journal articles available in e-books and e-journals held by the Taylor Family Digital Library and from (single) book chapters and journal articles that have been scanned and posted in the “course readings” file on d2l.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

This course requires a computer device with an internet connection and a suitable screen that can be used to access Zoom sessions and the D2L site for the course.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation	5%	term
Group assignments: 4 X 5%	20%	Aug 30 PM, Sep 1 AM, Sep 2 PM, and Sep 3 PM
m/c quizzes: 2 X 20%	40%	Sep 1 (11-12:15) and Sep 3 (3:15-4:30)
Take-home essay exam	35%	Sep 22
Total	100%	

If a student misses a course component, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS*
Aug 30 AM	Introduction and Liberal Feminist Political Theory I	- E. Frazer, “Feminist Political Theory,” 12 pp. - V. Bryson, “Liberalism and Beyond: Feminism and Equal Rights from the 1960s,” 24 pp. - S. Moller Okin, “Justice, Gender, and the

		Family,” 19 pp.
Aug 30 PM	Liberal Feminist Political Theory II	- M. Nussbaum, “Women and Cultural Universals,” 23 pp. - M. A. Warren, “The Moral Significance of Birth,” 16 pp. - film: <i>1970, Half the People</i> - in-class group assignment #1
Aug 31 AM	Radical/Cultural Feminist Political Theory I	- J. Evans, <i>Feminist Theory Today</i> , chapters 5-7, 46 pp. - S. Firestone, “The Dialectic of Sex,” 12 pp.
Aug 31 PM	Radical/Cultural Feminist Political Theory II	- A. Thiam, <i>Black Sisters, Speak Out</i> , Part 3, 16 pp. - S. Ruddick, “Maternal Thinking as a Feminist Standpoint,” 9 pp. - A. Rich, “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence,” 9 pp. - J. Donovan, “Twentieth Century Cultural Feminism,” 16 pp.
Sep 1 AM	Radical/Cultural Feminist Political Theory III	- film: <i>You Can’t Beat a Woman</i> - in-class group assignment #2 - quiz #1 (11-12:15)
Sep 1 PM	Socialist/Marxist Feminist Political Theory I	- V. Bryson, “Marxist and Socialist Feminism from the 1960s,” 23 pp. - E. Meiksins Wood, “Capitalism and Human Emancipation: Race, Gender, and Democracy,” 15 pp.
Sep 2 AM	Socialist/Marxist Feminist Political Theory II	- A. Ferguson, “Is There a Lesbian Culture?” 26 pp. - A. Jaggar, “Transnational Cycles of Gendered Vulnerability: A Prologue to a Theory of Global Gender Justice,” 23 pp. - L. Gordon “‘Intersectionality,’ Socialist Feminism, and Contemporary Activism: Musings by a Second-Wave Socialist Feminist,” 18 pp.
Sep 2 PM	Socialist/Marxist Feminist Political Theory III/ Postmodern/Postcolonial Feminist Political Theory I	- R. P. Tong, “Postmodern Feminism,” 18 pp. - J. Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory,” 9 pp. - film: <i>Señorita Extraviada</i> - in-class group assignment #3
Sep 3 AM	Postmodern/Postcolonial Feminist Political Theory II	- S. Hekman, “From Difference to Differences: Postmodernism, Race, Ethnicity, and Intersectionality,” 10 pp. - C. Talpade Mohanty, “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial

		Discourses,” 26 pp. - U. Narayan, “Essence of Culture and a Sense of History: A Feminist Critique of Cultural Essentialism,” 21 pp.
Sep 3 PM	Postmodern/Postcolonial Feminist Political Theory III	- film: <i>Gender Line Extended</i> - in-class group assignment #4 - quiz #2 (3:15-4:30)

Please note that the above schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

ASSIGNMENT(S)

In-class group assignments: Students will be randomly divided into groups of five or six and assigned to break-out rooms on zoom for each of these exercises. The groups will be given a question – or two, short, interconnected questions – relating class readings and lectures to a documentary film shown in class. Group members will discuss the question(s) and, as a group, formulate an answer. These assignments will be “open book” – i.e., students will be permitted to use course texts and notes and allowed access to the internet. At the end of each these exercises – which will take 30-45 minutes and which will be completed in class – each group will formulate ONE, 2-3 page answer (typed in point form) to the question(s) given which will be submitted, by the group recorder, to the drop-box in the assessments file on D2L. Students who miss a group assignment will not be permitted a rewrite. Instead, their mark will be pro-rated on the basis of their other assignments, provided that they present appropriate documentation.

PARTICIPATION

Participation requires, before anything else, actually being present in class. Given that many of the readings we will discuss in this class are complex and controversial, discussions are particularly important and attending class is therefore essential. Consequently, class attendance will be taken and counted for 2.5% of the course grade. Participation also entails reading the assigned chapters/articles and preparing for class discussions. The rest of the participation mark will be based on the overall quality rather than the quantity of a student’s contribution to class discussion (2.5%). Good participation also requires treating other students and the instructor with respect – i.e., not interrupting or attempting to dominate class discussions – as well as asking questions and engaging in dialogue and debate with classmates and the instructor. It entails, as well, using your laptops and iPads for taking notes and for accessing relevant documents and information on the internet rather than for texting, email, and surfing the web. Please note that important updates and announcements will be regularly posted on D2L and/or sent out via email. Therefore, it is the students’ responsibility to regularly check both the D2L site for the course and their University of Calgary email accounts.

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Instead of a midterm exam, this course will have two in-class, multiple-choice quizzes on September 1 (11-12:15) and September 3 (3:15-4:30). Each multiple-choice quiz will consist of 45-50 questions, posted in the quizzes section of the assessments file on D2L. The time allotted for completion of the quiz will be 75 minutes. The quizzes will be based on course readings,

lectures reviewing these readings, course films, and discussions. No access to course texts, notes, or internet will be permitted during the writing of these quizzes. Given students' possible unfamiliarity with writing quizzes on D2L and more complicated time commitments (ex. childcare), students will have the option of taking the quiz at the time indicated above or at another designated time slot during the day. Please contact me, by email, the day before to arrange for an alternate time to write the quiz. Should problems arise during the actual day or time scheduled for the writing of the quiz – ex., unexpected problems with the stability of your internet connection – please email me immediately so I can arrange to extend the time allotted for you to write the quiz or possibly re-schedule it.

FINAL EXAMINATION

The final exam in this course will be a (open-book) take-home essay exam consisting of 2 short essay questions (5-6 pages – double-spaced, 12-point font, 1” margins – including citations). These questions will be posted on D2L (in the “Course Assignments” file) by September 3. This exam will be based on course readings, lectures, and films. No outside research will be required. It should be submitted via the D2L drop-box by September 22 or before. Students who have some serious reason for submitting this exam late should consult with the instructor about this before the exams are due and be prepared to supply appropriate documentation (including a statutory declaration). No exams will be accepted by email (except in extenuating circumstances). Students are advised to keep a copy of their exam on file until their final course grade has been released.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

Students who, for some serious reason, will be late in handing in their essays should consult with the instructor about this before these assignments are due. Essays submitted after the deadline, without prior consultation and/or documentation, may be penalized with the loss of 5% in the assignment grade for each day late (not including weekends).

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisals

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the instructor**, who will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“A student may request a reappraisal of a final grade. The only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from [ucalgary.ca/registrar](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar) (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

University Regulations

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the

Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations

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 additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an 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.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031

Copyright Legislation

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower, MT 116..

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available

throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.