

POLI 417: Feminist Political Theory

Pre/Co-requisites: POLI 310, 328 or POLI 453	
Instructor: Dr. Regina Cochrane	Lecture Location: AD 142
Phone: 403-210-9434	Lecture Days/Time: Aug 28-Sep 1, 8:30AM-4:30 PM (MoTuWeThFr)
Email: r.cochrane@ucalgary.ca	Office hours: <i>Aug 28-Sep 1</i> : 4:30 PM, by request; <i>Sep 5-Dec 6</i> (Zoom or telephone): Fr 2:00-3:00PM (book by Fr AM); PLUS, extra office hours for help with takehome exam, TBA; and by appointment
Office: SS 706	Instructor Email Policy: none

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 the D2L site for the course.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation	10%	term
m/c quizzes: 2 X 20%	40%	Aug 30 AM and Sep 1 PM
Take-home essay exam	50%	Sep 20
Total	100%	30% of grade released by Sep 1

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

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS*
Aug 28 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 28 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: 1970, <i>Half the People</i> - in-class group assignment #1
Aug 29 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 29 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.
Aug 30 AM	Radical/Cultural Feminist Political Theory III	- film: <i>You Can’t Beat a Woman</i> - in-class group assignment #2 - quiz #1 (11:00-12:15)

Aug 30 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.
Aug 31 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.
Aug 31 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 1 AM	Postmodern/Postcolonial Feminist Political Theory II	- 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. - S. Hekman, "From Difference to Differences: Postmodernism, Race, Ethnicity, and Intersectionality," 10 pp.
Sep 1 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.

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 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 (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 August 30 and September 1. 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.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Final Exam	Yes
Format	Take-home: 2 essay questions, based on course material, 6-7 pages each, double-spaced, 12-point font, 1" margins, including (in-text) citations
Aids	open book

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

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.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at: https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/P22_deferral-of-term-work_lapseGrade.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

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>.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic 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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

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) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Tower.

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/>.