

Feminism & Philosophy

This class is an introduction to a range of historical and contemporary feminist issues. Is there an essential difference between women and men? If so, what is the nature of this difference and what are its moral, social, and political implications? If not, what explains the apparent differences? How do questions about gender intersect with questions about race, class, religion, and cross-cultural difference? Can a psychological account of how we tend to sort people into distinct social categories illuminate how we *ought* to understand these categories? Can assumptions about gender compromise scientific objectivity? This course introduces philosophy students to these and related questions in feminist thought, concluding with analyses of a few specific debates in contemporary feminist epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics.

Required Readings

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*

Thomas Laqueur, *Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud*

Michael Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*

Jennifer Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*

- All other readings and assigned material will be available on bSpace

Course Grading and Requirements: Participation (20%); Papers (80%)

Attendance & Participation (20%): This includes attendance, participation, and pop quizzes.

**Attendance is mandatory, as is arriving on time.** Excused absences require signed documentation from a doctor or dean. **Participation and preparation are crucial.** There are a variety of ways to participate, including: actively contributing to discussions, demonstrating reflection on the readings, listening carefully to others' contributions (not dominating discussion), showing respect toward classmates, and talking with me during office hours. There will also be a number of pop quizzes to make sure students are keeping up with the assignments.

3 Papers: 1<sup>st</sup>: 3 pages (15%); 2<sup>nd</sup>: 5-7 pages (30%); 3<sup>rd</sup>: 5-7 pages (35%)

**Topics and Readings**History of Essentialism; Gendered Souls & Virtue

Genesis 1-3

Wollstonecraft, selection from *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Grimke, selection from *Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman*

Construction and Critique of Essentialism

Engels, selection from *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*

Goldman, selection from *The Traffic in Women*

Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction, Part IV (pp.267-277)

Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Parts 1, 2, and 3

Bartky, "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power"

Laqueur, *Making Sex*, Chs. 1-2, 3 (pp. 69, 82, 88, 98-99), Ch.5 (149-63), Ch.6 (193-207; 243)

Butler, *Gender Trouble*, Prefaces (1999, 1990), Ch. 1, Ch. 3 (p.144 to End), Conclusion

Spelman, "Woman: The One and the Many"

Ethnicity, Class, & Gender

Anderson & Hill Collins, "Race, Class, and Gender"

Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color"

### Feminism, Gender, and the Global Context

Narayan, "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border Crossings, and Death by Culture"

Ko, "Gigantic Histories of the Nation in the Globe: The Rhetoric of Tianzu, 1880s-1910s"

Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" sec. IV (pp.294-308)

Massad, "ReOrienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World"

Abu-Lughod, "Saving Muslim Women or Standing with Them?"

Abu-Lughod, "Against Universals: The Dialects of Women's Rights"

Mahmood, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival," (pp.202-217)

Franke, "Ahmadinejad Comes To Columbia"

Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*, Ch.9

### Cognition of Race & Gender: Implicit Bias

Ambady, video lecture, "How Subtle Cues Shape Behavior and Performance"

Gladwell, selections from *Blink*

Kelly & Roedder, "Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias"

Valian, "Beyond Gender Schemas: Improving the Advancement of Women in Academia"

Huebner, "Trouble with Stereotypes for Spinozan Minds"

Sarkissian, "Minor Tweaks, Major Payoffs: The Problems and Promise of Situationism in Moral Philosophy"

Moskowitz, "On the Control Over Stereotype Activation and Stereotype Inhibition"

### Feminism, Science, Objectivity

Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*, Ch.8

Anderson, selection from "Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense"

Lloyd, selection from "Objectivity and the Double Standard"

Lloyd, "Pre-theoretical Assumptions in Evolutionary Explanations of Female Sexuality"

Jordan-Young, *Brain Storm: The Flaws in the Science of Sex Differences*, Ch. 1, Ch.3 (pp.48-54), Ch.8 (pp.228-236), Ch.9

### Not-So-Objective Science

Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm"

Levy, "Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the case of Caster Semenya"

Thornhill & Palmer, "Why Men Rape"

Oliwenstein, *Time Magazine*, "The Most Important Sex Organ"

### Feminist Epistemology & Ethics

Fricker, podcast interview for Philosophy Bites

Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Preface, Intro, Ch.7 "Hermeneutical Injustice"

Beeby, "A Critique of Hermeneutical Injustice"

Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*, Ch.1

Okin, "Justice as Fairness: For Whom?"

### Feminism & Metaphysics

Mikkola, "Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism and Women"

Mikkola, "Gender Sceptics and Feminist Politics"

Haslanger, "What Good Are Our Intuitions: Philosophical Analysis and Social Kinds"

Saul, "Philosophical Analysis and Social Kinds: Gender and Race"