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Moses 247, Office Hours, Thursday 4PM-6PM

Graduate Student Instructor
Antonia Peacocke (peacocke@berkeley.edu)

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*
Michael Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*
Jennifer Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*

- All other readings will be available in a Course Reader at Copy Central (2576 Bancroft) or on bSpace.

Course Grading and Requirements: Participation (20%); 3 Papers (80%)

- Note: if attendance remains large, there will be a final exam on the last day of class instead of a final paper.

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

Attendance to both class and section 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 or your GSI during office hours. There will also be a number of pop quizzes to make sure students are keeping up with the assignments.

3 papers: 1st: 3 pages (20%) due 7/21
 2nd: 5 pages (30%) due 8/4
 3rd: 5 pages (35%) due 8/15

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Please read the handout entitled "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" (to be distributed with the first paper topics; also available on bSpace), and review university policy at <http://www.berkeley.edu/catalog/policies/conduct.html>.

Note: In writing papers for this class, use of secondary sources must be cleared with your GSI in advance.

Topics and Readings

History of Essentialism; Gendered Souls & Virtue

Genesis 1-3

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

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

Construction and Critique of Essentialism

Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*, selections

Emma Goldman, *The Traffic in Women*, selections

Jennifer Saul, *Feminism*, Intro, Ch. 1, “The Politics of Work and Family” (pp.5-16, 20-30)

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, selections

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

Sandra Lee Bartky, “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”

Cristan Williams, “[Gender Performance: The TransAdvocate interviews Judith Butler](#)” and embedded video, “Your Behavior Creates Your Gender”

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

Elizabeth Spelman, “Woman: The One and the Many”

Ethnicity, Class, & Gender

Margaret Anderson & Patricia Hill Collins, “Race, Class, and Gender”

Kimberlé Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence against Women of Color”

Ron Mallon, “Social Construction, Social Roles, and Stability”

Feminism, Gender, and the Global Context

Saul, *Feminism*, ch. 9, “Feminism and ‘Respect for Cultures’”

Optional: Uma Narayan, “Cross-Cultural Connections, Border Crossings, and Death by Culture”

Joseph Massad, “ReOrienting Desire: The Gay International and the Arab World”

Lila Abu-Lughod, “Saving Muslim Women or Standing with Them?”

Abu-Lughod, “Against Universals: The Dialects of Women’s Rights”

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

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

Franke, “Ahmadinejad Comes To Columbia”

Cognition of Race & Gender: Implicit Bias

Nalini Ambady, video lecture, “How Subtle Cues Shape Behavior and Performance”

Virginia Valian, selections from “Gender Schemas at Work” and “Gender Begins—and Continues—at Home”

Dan Kelly & Erica Roedder, “Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias”

Malcolm Gladwell, selections from *Blink*

Alex Madva, “Biased Against De-Biasing: On the Role of (Institutionally Sponsored) Self-Transformation in the Struggle Against Prejudice”

Feminism, Science, Objectivity

Saul, *Feminism*, ch.8, “Feminism, Science, and Bias”

Rebecca 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

Sarah Richardson, “Y All the Hype?”

Lori Oliwenstein, *Time Magazine*, “The Most Important Sex Organ”

Randy Thornhill & Craig Palmer, “Why Men Rape”

Ariel Levy, “Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the case of Caster Semenya”

Feminist Epistemology & Intersections with Moral-Political Philosophy

Miranda Fricker, podcast interview for Philosophy Bites

Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Preface, Intro, Ch.7 “Hermeneutical Injustice”

Elizabeth Anderson, “Epistemic Justice as a Virtue of Social Institutions”

Laura Beeby, “A Critique of Hermeneutical Injustice”

Feminism & Metaphysics

Mari Mikkola, “Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism and Women”

Mikkola, “Gender Sceptics and Feminist Politics”

Sally Haslanger, “Gender and race: (what) are they? (What) do we want them to be?”

Saul, “Philosophical Analysis and Social Kinds: Gender and Race”