

PHILOSOPHY 6014: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

Prof. Mercedes Corredor

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Seminar hours: Thursdays 4:00-6:30 in Major Williams 225

Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 in 220 Major Williams, and any time by appointment

DESCRIPTION In this class we will ask: what is gender and what explains the existence of gendered subordination and hierarchy? We will also explore the nature of woman's oppression and subordination. Along the way, we will investigate some of the problems that arise under such hierarchical conditions, with the aim of identifying what (if anything) serves as the linchpin of gender inequality.

GRADING The components of your seminar grade are as follows:

Weekly Reading Responses: 30%

Presentation at one seminar meeting: 20%

Final Paper: 50%

Weekly Reading Responses: You are to submit a total of ten weekly reading responses. For full credit must submit this response to Canvas by midnight on the preceding Wednesday. The typical weekly reading response should consist of either a clarificatory question or critical objection to one of the readings assigned for that week.

Presentations: If you are presenting at a seminar meeting, you must email me a detailed handout of your presentation by midnight on the preceding Wednesday. The seminar presentation grade will be determined by the following components: the philosophical merits of the content of your handout, the clarity with which the content is presented on your handout, the effective management of time during your presentation, and the quality of the discussion generated by your presentation.

Final Paper: One research project on the topics of this course due in the following stages: (1) a 1-2 page abstract of the paper due by March 16 (2) an approx. 7 page draft of the seminar paper due April 9 (3) an individual conference with me scheduled after submission of the draft and (4) a final approx. 15 page seminar paper due by May 5.

READINGS All readings will be posted to Canvas. Always refer to the current syllabus in Canvas to find the readings for the current week and the following week, as readings may change.

I. What is a woman?

SCHEDULE	Week 1 <i>introduction</i>	Introduction “Does Feminist Philosophy Rest on a Mistake?” Amia Srinivasan
	Week 2 <i>function (as other)</i>	<i>The Second Sex</i> (“Introduction”), Simone de Beauvoir “Throwing Like a Girl,” Iris Marion Young
	Week 3 <i>against unification</i>	“The Metaphysics of Sex and Gender,” Ásta <i>Gender Troubles</i> (excerpt), Judith Butler <i>Inessential woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought</i> (excerpt), Elizabeth Spelman
	Week 4 <i>amelioration</i>	“Gender and Race: (What) Are They? And (What) do we want them to be?,” Sally Haslanger “Sex Equality: On Difference and Dominance,” Catharine A. MacKinnon
	Week 5 <i>identification</i>	“Trans women and the meaning of ‘woman,’” Talia Mae Bettcher “Science Fiction Double Feature: Trans Liberation on Twin Earth,” R.A. Briggs and B.R. George <i>Optional: “The Pink,” Andrea Long Chu</i>
	Week 6 <i>inclusivity</i>	“Amelioration and Inclusion,” Katharine Jenkins “Essentializing Language and the Prospects for Ameliorative Projects,” Katherine Ritchie • seminar visit by katherine ritchie •
	Week 7 <i>aims redux</i>	“Gender and Gender Terms,” Elizabeth Barnes “Real Talk on the Metaphysics of Gender,” Robin Dembroff

II. Mechanisms of subordination, tools of liberation

Week 8 <i>oppression</i>	"Oppression," Marilyn Frye “The Five Faces of Oppression,” Iris Marion Young
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“Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression,” bell hooks

Week 9
objectification

Sexual Solipsism: Philosophical Essays on Pornography and Objectification (Chapter 10), Rae Langton

“On Being Objective and Being Objectified,”
(Section 4) Sally Haslanger

“Objectification (excerpts),” Martha Nussbaum

Week 10
misogyny

Down Girl (Chapter 1), Kate Manne

The Wrong of Injustice: Dehumanization and its Role in Feminist Philosophy (Chapter 6), Mari Mikkola

Week 11
choice

“Perpetuating the Patriarchy: Misogyny and (Post-) Feminist Backlash,” Filipa Melo Lopes

“Oppression by Choice,” Ann Cudd

• seminar visit by filipa melo lopes •

Week 12
masculinity

Sovereign Masculinity (excerpts), Bonnie Mann

The Man-Not (Introduction), Tommie J. Curry

Week 13
hope

The Second Sex (“Conclusion”), Simone de Beauvoir

“Perpetual Struggle,” Kathryn Norlock

Week 14
love

“The Story of Romantic Love and Polyamory”
Michael Milona and Lauren Weindling

“Love in the Western World,” Denis de Rougemon

“The Woman in Love,” Simone de Beauvoir

• seminar visit by michael milona and lauren
wiendling •