



PHIL 127 - Feminist Philosophy Course Outline

Approval Date: 01/12/2017

Effective Date: 06/10/2017

SECTION A

Unique ID Number

Discipline(s) Philosophy
Philosophy
Philosophy

Division Arts and Humanities

Subject Area Philosophy

Subject Code PHIL

Course Number 127

Course Title Feminist Philosophy

TOP Code/SAM Code 1509.00 - Philosophy / E - Non-Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Textbook update.

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment 50

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog Description This course introduces students to the major themes in feminist philosophy examined through the lens of the historical development of the tradition and studied from the metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and philosophy-of-the-self areas of philosophical discourse. This course develops the students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

Schedule Description

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. **Prerequisite(s):** *None*

1b. **Corequisite(s):** *None*

1c. **Recommended:** *None*

1d. **Limitation on Enrollment:** *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- A. Examine, compare and evaluate feminist philosophical viewpoints from culturally-distinct social systems as well as the development of the ideal of the "feminine" at significant junctures in the history of the western tradition.
- B. Describe and critically assess key elements of feminist theory from historical, ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological philosophical perspectives, emphasizing the ontological efficacy of various feminist philosophical positions, comparing and contrasting the most salient elements of each.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. List and describe the various areas of philosophy;
- B. Interpret and critique any given text from an historical, ethical, metaphysical, epistemological and/or ontological perspective;
- C. Summarize and reconstruct the historical basis for cultural change;
- D. Summarize and reconstruct Giddens' Theory of Societal Structuration;
- E. Describe, compare and critically evaluate the disquisitions of each author read in class;
- F. Create a new theory or approach to feminist philosophy drawing upon the various methodologies learned in class.
- G.

3. Course Content

- I. Introduction and Expectations - Areas of Philosophy
 - A. Metaphysical Systems and the Structure of Societies
 - B. Cultural Relativism and Human Values
 1. Giddens' Theory of Societal Structuration
 - C. The Value of Women, Children and the Environment in Indigenous Cultures
 - D. The March of Progress: Evolution of Class-Based and Class Cultures
 - E. Historical Basis of Cultural Change

II. Ancient and Medieval Texts

- A. Platonic Views of Women
- B. Men and Women in Aristotelian Philosophy
- C. Women in the Bible and in Augustine and Aquinas
- D. The Enlightenment Period and Post-Enlightenment
- E. John Locke and David Hume
- F. Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- G. Immanuel Kant
- H. Wollstonecraft
- I. Schopenhauer

III. Recent Influences - Various Philosophical Viewpoints

- A. Harriet Taylor Mill
- B. Friedrich Nietzsche
- C. Sigmund Freud and Juliette Mitchell
- D. Carl Gustav Jung
- E. Simone de Beauvoir
- F. Karen Horney

IV. Social-Political Viewpoint: Charlotte Perkins Gilman

- A. Jessie Taft and Jane Addams
- B. Writings of Christine Pierce
- C. Feminist Perspectives
- D. Sara Ruddick and Sarah Hoagland
- E. Philosophy of Mary Daly
- F. Carol Gilligan's Different Voice
- G. Susan Moller Okin's Work
- H. Carole J. Sheffield on Sexual Terrorism

V. The Three Waves of Feminism and Their Philosophical Foundations

- A. First Wave (19th century and 1st part of the 20th century)
 - 1. Margaret Fuller - Women in the 19th Century, published 1843
 - 2. Simone de Beauvoir
 - 3. Mary Wollstonecraft
 - 4. Virginia Woolf - "A Room of One's Own"
- B. Second Wave (1960's and 1970's)
 - 1. Betty Freidan
 - 2. Gloria Steinem - "What If Freud Were Phyllis?"
 - 3. Maxine Hong Kingston
 - 4. Cherrie Moraga
 - 5. Gloria Anzaldua
- C. Third Wave (Begins late 1980's and early 1990's)
 - 1. Susan Griffin - A Chorus of Stones, published 1993 and Transforming Terror: Remembering the Soul of the World, published 2011 and Pornography and Silence: Culture's Revenge against Nature, published 1982 and Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her, published 2000
 - 2. Susan Faludi - Backlash: The Undeclared War against American Women, published 1991
 - 3. Luz Irigaray
 - 4. Helen Cixous
 - 5. Julia Kristeva

VI. Where are we today?

- A. Summary and Philosophical Extrapolations

4. Methods of Instruction:

Activity: Films, podcasts.

Critique: Instructor will offer spontaneous oral critiques of student comments during class discussions as well as written critiques of assigned essays.

Discussion: Class discussion will be conducted intermittently at appropriate intervals during the lecture presentations.

Lecture: Instructor will lecture, using the Socratic Method and class discussion.

Projects: 12 short writing assignments summarizing the various theories of writers presented in class and one 7-8 page comparative analysis of 3 cultures from a metaphysical and/or epistemological viewpoint.

Other: MODE OF INSTRUCTION: Lecture and class discussion.

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests -- Two Unit Exams and One Comprehensive Final

Papers -- 10 short summary papers (2 - 3 pages long) and one analytic, comparative paper (10 pages).

Class Participation -- Engaged participation in class discussion.

Home Work -- Reading and writing assignments (see above).

Final Exam -- Comprehensive - combination of objective, multiple choice and essay questions.

Additional assessment information:

MNIMNAL STANDARDS FOR PASSING: At least 75% of the students will achieve 70% or higher on their overall scores taken from the 10 short essays (2-3 pages); the two unit exams; the analytic, comparative paper (10 pages) and the final exam.

Examples of Test Questions:

1.) Briefly summarize the three periods of feminist history providing dates, prominent names and salient philosophies of each period.

2.) Apply Giddens' Theory of Societal Structuration to two diverse cultures studied in class giving emphasis to the role of women in each culture mentioned.

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

1. Both textbooks in their entirety: 1.) Unpopular Privacy: What Must We Hide? (Studies in Feminist Philosophy), by Anita L. Allen, 2011; Philosophy of Woman: An Anthology of Classic to Current Concepts, Third Edition, ed. by Mary Briody Mahowald, 1994

2. Philosophy 127 Course Reader, by Robbie Kunkel, 2012

3. Hand-outs and articles germane to the topics.

B. Writing Assignments

Ten short papers (2-3 pages long), each one summarizing a particular philosopher studied in class. One analytic, comparative paper (10 pages long) critically comparing the view of women in 3 different cultures from a metaphysical and/or epistemological standpoint.

Example #1: Summarize Giddens's Theory of Societal Structuration and provide two examples studied in class showing how his theory explains each cultural value.

Example #2: Compare and contrast the established value of women, children and the environment in indigenous cultures versus the contemporary United States.

C. Other Assignments

1.) Listen regularly to KQED and KPFA programs pertaining to women's issues. (Podcasts are available for students who cannot listen at particular airing times.)

2.) Keep a journal of good ideas for an argument paper.

7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: MCCANN, C and Kim, S

Title: Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Publisher: Routledge

Date of Publication: 2017

Edition: 4th

B. Other required materials/supplies.

- Most recent articles as they are published in journals or books.