

PHIL-127: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY

Justification for this inactivation request

Course not offered in 3 years.

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

11/01/2024

AS Approval

11/14/2024

BOT Approval

11/21/2024

COCI Approval

03/13/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Philosophy (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

PHIL - Philosophy

Course Number

127

Department

Philosophy

Division

Arts and Humanities (ARAH)

Full Course Title

Feminist Philosophy

Short Title

Feminist Philosophy

CB03 TOP Code

1509.00 - Philosophy

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course 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.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	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.
2.	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.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	List and describe the various areas of philosophy;
2.	Interpret and critique any given text from an historical, ethical, metaphysical, epistemological and/or ontological perspective;
3.	Summarize and reconstruct the historical basis for cultural change;
4.	Summarize and reconstruct Giddens' Theory of Societal Structuration;
5.	Describe, compare and critically evaluate the disquisitions of each author read in class;
6.	Create a new theory or approach to feminist philosophy drawing upon the various methodologies learned in class.

Course Content

1. Introduction and Expectations - Areas of Philosophy
 - a. Metaphysical Systems and the Structure of Societies
 - b. Cultural Relativism and Human Values
 - i. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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
5. The Three Waves of Feminism and Their Philosophical Foundations
 - a. First Wave (19th century and 1st part of the 20th century)
 - i. Margaret Fuller - Women in the 19th Century, published 1843
 - ii. Simone de Beauvoir
 - iii. Mary Wollstonecraft
 - iv. Virginia Woolf - "A Room of One's Own"
 - b. Second Wave (1960's and 1970's)
 - i. Betty Freidan
 - ii. Gloria Steinem - "What If Freud Were Phyllis?"
 - iii. Maxine Hong Kingston
 - iv. Cherrie Moraga
 - v. Gloria Anzaldua
 - c. Third Wave (Begins late 1980's and early 1990's)

- i. 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
 - ii. Susan Faludi - Backlash: The Undeclared War against American Women, published 1991
 - iii. Luz Irigaray
 - iv. Helen Cixous
 - v. Julia Kristeva
6. Where are we today?
- a. Summary and Philosophical Extrapolations

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
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.

Online Adaptation

Types	Examples of learning activities
Activity	
Directed Study	
Discussion	
Group Work	
Individualized Instruction	
Journal	
Lecture	

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Two Unit Exams and One Comprehensive Final. Final Exam - Comprehensive - combination of objective, multiple choice and essay questions.

Essays/Papers	10 short summary papers (2 - 3 pages long) and one analytic, comparative paper (10 pages).
Class Participation	Engaged participation in class discussion.
Homework	Reading and writing assignments (see above).
Other	MINIMAL 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.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

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.

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' 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.

Outside-of-Class 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.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

MCCANN, C and Kim, S

Title

Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Edition/Version

4th

Publisher

Routledge

Year

2017

Material Type

Other required materials/supplies

Description

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

SECTION G - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity

Course Codes (Admin Only)

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No