

Fall, 2005
Philosophy 591F
Thursdays 4-6:30 pm

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Office Hours Weds. 2-3, Thurs.
2:30-3:30 or by appointment

History of Feminist Philosophy

This course will survey European and American feminist philosophers from the 15th to the 21st centuries. Authors and topics include: (1) Equality arguments, including (a) Feminist interpretations of Christian theology and (b) Debates about Gender, Reason, Emotion, and Morality; (2) Difference arguments, both differences between women and men and differences between women; (3) Epistemological debates about gendered “standpoints”; (4) Poststructuralist critiques of debates about Gender; and (5) Feminist theories of Freedom and Justice.

Prerequisites for undergraduates: Some familiarity with the history of philosophy, social theory, concepts in women’s studies or permission of the instructor.

Required Texts: (Books available at Food for Thought Books & on reserve in the W.E.B. DuBois Library)

1. Carol C. Gould, ed. *Gender: Key Concepts in Critical Theory* (1997, Humanities)

Optional:

1. Diana T. Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought: A Reader* (1997, Routledge).
2. Janet Kourany, ed. *Philosophy in a Feminist Voice* (1998, Princeton University)

Required Readings: A set of folders of Xeroxed selections of other authors which are required reading for the course, arranged by date of seminar, will be available in the metal cabinet on the third floor of Bartlett Hall. There will be a sign out sheet with date and time borrowed for each folder. **Please be considerate of other seminar members and do not keep the required reading out more than about 2 hours or overnight to let others have a chance to read or copy it.** Required readings not in the main text will also be found as selections in books on Library Reserve.

Requirements:

1. Class participation and presentations: the course will be conducted as a seminar. Each student will be expected to do two short presentations on one required reading for the seminar. This presentation will involve discussing one issue or question involved in the reading and either making a claim about the author or raising a question for discussion. **The presentation should not be longer than 10 minutes!** There will be a sign-up sheet for presentations passed around at the 2nd seminar.
2. Two short essays (roughly 5 pages each). **Due Oct. 5 and Nov. 10 in seminar**
3. Final paper (roughly 15 pages) on your own topic, chosen in consultation with the instructor. **Due Monday, December 19 by 5 pm in my mailbox, Bartlett 352.**

Recommended Readings: (Most texts are on reserve in the W.E.B DuBois Library.)

General:

A History of Women Philosophers: Vols. 2 & 3, ed. Mary Ellen Waithe (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1989-91)

O'Neill, Eileen, "Disappearing Ink: Early Modern Women Philosophers and their Fate in History," in *Philosophy in a Feminist Voice: Critiques and Reconstructions*, ed. Janet Kourany (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998)

Women Writers of the Seventeenth Century, ed. K. Wilson and F. Warnke (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1989)

Just published (available online): O'Neill, Eileen "Early Modern Women Philosophers and the History of Philosophy", *Hypatia*, v. 20 #3 (Summer 2005): 185-197.

Syllabus of Required and Optional Readings

Seminar 1 Sept. 8: Introduction: Definitions, History of the Woman Question

Gould, Carol "The Woman Question: Philosophy of Liberation and the Liberation of Philosophy" in Gould text.

O'Neill, Eileen "The Forgetting of Gender and New Histories of Philosophy: A Response to Nancy Tuana", 2005 mss.

Bordo, Susan "The Feminist as Other" in *Philosophy in a Feminist Voice*, ed. Janet Kourany (1998, Princeton University).

Seminar 2 Sept. 15: Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

Delphy, Christine "Rethinking Sex and Gender", in *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives* (2003, Routledge), ed. Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim.

Rubin, Gayle "The Traffic in Women: Notes on a Political Economy of Sex", selections, from Rayna Reiter, ed. *Toward an Anthropology of Women* (Monthly Review Press, 1975)

Butler, Judith "Excerpt from *Gender Trouble*" in Gould text.

Beauvoir, Simone De *The Second Sex*, selection in Gould text.

Antony, Louise "'Human Nature'" in Feminist Theory", in *Philosophy in a Feminist Voice*, ed. Janet Kourany (1998, Princeton University)

Bartky, Sandra, Selection from *Femininity and Domination in Gender* in Gould text.

Seminar 3 Sept. 22: Equality Arguments: Christian Theology and Women's Status

Pizan, Christine De *The Book of the City of Ladies* (1998, Persea Books), pp. 3-43

Gournay, Marie De (17th c.) "The Equality of Men and Women" in *Apology for the Woman Writing* (2002, University of Chicago), eds. Richard Hillman and Colette Quesnel

O'Neill, Eileen "Justifying the Inclusion of Women in Our Histories of Philosophy: The Case of Marie de Gournay", mss. (21st c.)
Stanton, Elizabeth Cady et al *The Woman's Bible* (19th c.)(1999, Prometheus), Part I Introduction, Text beginning with Genesis, pp. 7-33; ch 7 pp. 45-50; ch. 10 pp. 122-24; Epistles pp. 160-173.

Optional: Daly, Mary *The Church and the Second Sex*, ch. 2.

Seminar 4 Sept. 29: Equality Arguments: Reason, Emotion, Morality and Gender

Astell, Mary *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies* (1970, Source Book Press) (17th c.), Pt. I, ch. 3, pp. 79-131
Poullain de La Barre, François, "The Equality of the Two Sexes", *Three Cartesian Feminist Treatises* (University of Chicago), Preface, Part I, pp.49-72, Part II, pp. 104-121.(Cartesian, 17th c.)
Marchioness de Lambert *New Reflections on Women* (1995, Peter Lang, tr and intro by Ellen McNiven Hine) (18th c.), whole essay.

Optional:

Ferguson, Ann "Does Reason have a Gender?" in *Radical Philosophy: Tradition, Counter-Tradition, Politics* (Temple University, 1993).
Ferguson, Ann "Gay Marriage: American and Feminist Dilemmas", mss.

Seminar 5 Oct. 5: Equality Arguments continued, and the Case of Marriage

First Short Paper due

Wollstonecraft, Mary *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, selections (18th c.), reprinted in Mary Mahowald ed. *Philosophy of Woman* (1983, Hackett Press).
Mill, J.S. and Harriet Taylor *The Subjection of Women* (19th c.)(1970, MIT Press), chs. 1, 2 (ch. 3 optional).
Goldman, Emma "The Traffic in Women" and "Marriage and Love" (20th c.) from *The Traffic in Women and Other Essays on Feminism: Emma Goldman* (1970: Times Change Press), ed. Alix Kates Shulman.

Optional:

Rousseau, J.J. *Emile*, ch 5 "Sophie", reprinted in Mary Mahowald, ed. *Philosophy of Woman*
Ferguson, Ann "Does Reason Have a Gender?" in *Radical Philosophy: Tradition, Counter-Tradition, Politics* (1993, Temple University Press): 21-47.
Lloyd, Genevieve *The Man of Reason: 'Male' and 'Female' in Western Philosophy* (1984, 1993, University of Minnesota), passim.
Tanesini, Alessandra *An Introduction to Feminist Epistemologies* (1999, Blackwell), ch. 9, "Reason and Unreason in Feminism".

Seminar 6 Oct. 13: Difference Arguments: Reason, Emotion, Androgyny and Care Ethics

Cooper, Anna Julia *A Voice from the South*, selections (19th c.)
Held, Virginia “Reconceptualizations in Feminist Ethics” from Kourany, ed. op. cit.
Gilligan, Carol “Moral Orientation and Moral Development”, selection in Gould text.
Hoagland, Sara “Lesbian Ethics and Female Agency”, from *Explorations in Feminist Ethics: Theory and Practice* (1992, Indiana University), ed. Eve Browning Cole and Susan Coultrap-McQuin.
Tronto, Joan “Women and Caring: What Can Feminist Learn About Morality from Caring?”, selection in Gould text.
Ruddick Sara “Maternal Thinking”, selection in Gould text.

Optional:

Ferguson, Ann “Androgyny as a Goal for Human Development”, and “Gynandry is a Better Name” in *Sexual Democracy* (1991, Westview).
Friedman, Marilyn “Beyond Caring: The De-moralization of Gender” in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*.

Seminar 7 Oct. 20: Psychoanalysis and Radical Feminism

Chodorow, Nancy “Gender, Relation and Difference in Psychoanalytic Perspective”, selection in Gould text
Irigaray, Luce “This Sex Which is Not One”, in Gould text
Atkinson, Ti Grace “Radical Feminism: Declaration of War and Metaphysical Cannibalism”, in *Amazon Odyssey* (1974, Links Books)
Wittig, Monique “One is Not Born a Woman”, in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*.
Daly, Mary *Pure Lust*, ch. 10 “Be-Longing: The Lust for Happiness”

Optional:

Radicalesbians “The Woman-Identified Woman” in Nicholson text
Abel, Elizabeth “Race, Class, and Psychoanalysis? Opening Questions”, in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*

Seminar 8 Oct. 27: Equality vs. Difference Arguments in the Law

Williams, Wendy “The Equality Crisis: Some Reflections on Culture, Courts and Feminism”, in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*, also in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*.
MacKinnon, Catharine “Sexuality”, in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*
Scott, Joan W. “Deconstructing Equality-vs.-Difference: Or, the Uses of Poststructuralist Theory for Feminism”, in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*
Williams, Patricia *The Alchemy of Race and Rights*, selection in Gould text.

Seminar Nov. 3: Differences Between Women: Class, Race, Nationality and Sexuality

- Spelman, E.V. *Inessential Woman*, selection in Gould text.
hooks, bell “Feminism and Class Power” from *Where We Stand: Class Matters* (2000, Routledge).
The Combahee River Collective “A Black Feminist Statement”, in Linda Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*.
Alarcon, Norma “The Theoretical Subject(s) of *This Bridge Called My Back* and Anglo-American Feminism”, in Linda Nicholson, Ibid.
Narayan, Uma “Contesting Cultures: ‘Westernization’, Respect for Cultures, and Third World Feminism”, in Nicholson, Ibid
Stone, Sandy “The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto”, from Katie Conboy et al, eds. *Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory* (1997, Columbia University Press).

Optional:

- Davis, Angela *Women, Race and Class* (1981 ??), passim
Alexander, Jacqui and Chandra Mohanty, eds. *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures* (1997, Routledge), passim.
Anzaldúa, Gloria *Borderlands/La Frontera* (??, Aunt Lute Books).

Seminar Nov. 10: Feminist Epistemological Standpoint Theory

Second Short Paper Due

- Hartsock, Nancy “The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism”, in Nicholson, op.cit.
Collins, Patricia Hill “Defining Black Feminist Thought” in Linda Nicholson Ibid.
Lugones, Maria “Playfulness, ‘World Travelling, and Loving Perception”, in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*
Harding, Sandra “Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology: What is ‘Strong Objectivity’?” from Linda Alcoff and Elizabeth Potter, eds. *Feminist Epistemologies* (1993, Routledge)
Narayan, Uma “The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Non-Western Feminist”, selection in Gould text.

Optional:

- Tanesini, Alessandra *An Introduction to Feminist Epistemologies* (1999, Blackwell), especially 2, 6 and 7
Alcoff, Linda and Elizabeth Potter, eds. *Feminist Epistemologies* (1993, Routledge), passim
Antony, Louise “Quine as Feminist: The Radical Import of Naturalized Epistemology”, in Louise Antony and Charlotte Witt, eds. *A Mind of One’s Own: Feminist Essays on Reason and Objectivity*

Seminar 11 Nov. 17: Poststructuralism and Postmodernism

- Butler, Judith “Contingent Foundations: Feminism and the Question of ‘Postmodernism’”, in Judith Butler and Joan Scott, eds. *Feminists Theorize the Political* (1992: Routledge)
- Butler, *Bodies that Matter*, Introduction and chapter 1 (1993, Routledge) (??)
- Bartky “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”, in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*
- Alcoff, Linda “Cultural Feminism vs. Poststructuralism: The Identity Crisis in Feminist Theory”, in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*
- Fraser, Nancy and Linda Nicholson “Social Criticism without Philosophy: An Encounter between Feminism and Postmodernism”, in Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*

Optional:

- Weedon, Chris *Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory* (1987, Blackwell), passim
- Ferguson, Ann “Judith Butler, Sex/Gender and Postmodern Theory”, in Barbara S. Andrew, Jean Keller, Lisa H. Schwartzman, eds. *Feminist Interventions in Ethics and Politics* (2005, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers).

Seminar 12: Dec. 1 Feminists on Justice

- Young, Iris *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990: Princeton University Press), selections
- Butler, Judith “Doing Justice to Someone: Sex Assignment and Allegories of Transsexuality”, *Undoing Gender* (2004, Routledge)
- Fraser, Nancy *Justice Interruptus: Feminism and the Post-Socialist Condition*(1997), selections

Optional:

- Okin, Susan Moller *Justice, Gender and the Family*, selection in Gould text.

Seminar 13 Dec. 8: Feminist Theories of Global Justice

- Bunch, Charlotte “A Global Perspective on Feminist Ethics and Diversity” in *Explorations in Feminist Ethics: Theory and Practice*, eds. Eve Browning Cole and Susan Coultrap-McQuin
- Nussbaum, Martha “Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings”, in Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, eds. *Women, Culture and Development*
- Jaggar, Alison “Saving Amina: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue”, mss.
- Ferguson, Ann “Resisting the Veil of Privilege: Building Bridge Identities as an Ethico-Politics of Global Feminism”, *Hypatia* v. 13 #3 (Summer 1998).
- Mohanty, Chandra “Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity”, in *Feminism without Borders* (2004, Duke University)