Phil 10164: Metaphysical and Epistemological Issues in Feminism
http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/16-17_Archive_at_01-09-2016/dpt/cxphil10164.htm
Dr Elinor Mason

“One is not born, but rather, becomes a woman”
Simone de Beauvoir

In this class we will look at metaphysical and epistemological issues concerning gender and patriarchy, and the concepts involved in talking about oppression in general and sexism in particular.

Classes: Thursdays 2.10-4pm, David Hume Tower LG 06.

Office hours: Thursdays 1pm-2pm and by appointment, Rm 6.06 DSB.

Respect and Sensitivity
Please bear in mind that some of the things we talk about are things that other students may find upsetting. Talk to each other with this in mind. Be respectful at all times. It is not disrespectful to disagree with someone’s views, but the expression of that disagreement must be polite and impersonal, and based on argument.

Expectations
I expect students to check Learn regularly for updates and announcements.

I expect students to do the reading in advance. Classes will involve a variety of lecturing, discussion, and collaborative work in small groups.

Violations of university policies on plagiarism will be taken extremely seriously.

Assessment
Mid-term essay of 1,500 words (40%) due on Thursday 2nd March by 12pm.

End-of-semester essay of 2,500 words (60%) due on Thursday 27th April by 12pm.

Please note that there is some flexibility about essay topics: you can pick your own so long as you run it by me, but the expectation is that you write on a topic from the course. End of semester essays must be on a topic from week 7 or later.
4th Year Coursework dissertations:
Notify Teaching Office which course you will be completing the dissertation on by Monday 27th February 2017, by 12pm. Coursework dissertations due in on Tuesday 25th April 2017, by 12pm

Generally, any question listed for discussion in a seminar is a suitable short dissertation title, but please discuss your title with me.

Late penalties apply:
http://www.docs.sasq.ed.ac.uk/AcademicServices/Regulations/TaughtAssessmentRegulations2013-14.PDF

Disabilities
If you have a disability please make sure that I am the relevant offices are aware of necessary provisions in good time. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities.
http://www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service

Readings
Most of the readings are available online through the library. It is your responsibility to track them down.

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy has very useful entries on feminist topics, some are linked here but there are many others that you may find relevant. The best use of the SEP is to get an overview of a topic and find further reading.

Hypatia is a journal of feminist philosophy and women’s studies – the last ten years or so are available online. Be aware that most but not all of the articles are philosophy.

Introductory books and useful edited collections:
Hackett, Elizabeth & Haslanger, Sally (ed.s), 2000. Theorizing Feminisms, OUP.
Essential Reading
There are a couple of books that we will be reading several chapters of (see class schedule below), and reading the rest would be beneficial. They are available online through the library.

Haslanger, Sally, (2012). Resisting Reality (OUP)
Langton, Rae, (2009). Sexual Solipsism (OUP)

Schedule

Week 1 Introduction
Haslanger, Feminism in Metaphysics (Ch. 4 of RR)

Week 2 Oppression
Haslanger, Sally ‘Oppression’ (Ch. 11 of RR)
Iris Young, ‘Five Faces of Oppression’ (available as a pdf on the web).

Additional Reading

Week 3 Intersectionality

Additional Reading

Week 4 The Social Construction of Gender
Haslanger, ‘Social Construction and Social Critique’, and ‘Gender and Race’ (ch. 6 and 7 of RR)
Additional Reading
Haslanger, ‘Social Construction’ (Ch. 3 of RR).
Haslanger’s ‘Future Genders? Future Races?’ (ch. 8 of RR)
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-metaphysics/

N.B. The SEP articles are particularly useful on this topic.

Week 5 More on the Metaphysics of Gender (Guest lecturer Joey Pollock)

Week 6 Flexible learning week
Some movies you might find relevant (a mixed bag of films/documentaries about masculinity, femininity, trans issues):

Growing up trans
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/growing-up-trans/

The mask you live in (examination of masculinity)
http://therepresentationproject.org/.../the-mask-you...

Strong (on ideals of femininity)
Strong! | Our Films | Independent Lens | PBS

Miss Representation (account of under representation and portrayal of women in the media)
http://therepresentationproject.org/.../miss-representation/
Going on 13 (interesting on intersectionality)
http://goingon13.com/

Paris is Burning (famous documentary about the drag scene in NYC, critiqued by both Butler and hooks)
Paris Is Burning 1990 VOSTFR 720p HD Full DOC

Tough Guise (on masculinity)
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1139643/

Week 7 Transgender Identity (class 6)

Additional Reading
Katharine Jenkins, (2016). ‘Amelioration and Inclusion: Gender Identity and the Concept of Woman Ethics Vol. 126, No. 2 pp. 394-421

Week 8 False Consciousness and Ideology (class 7)
Haslanger, ‘But Mom, Crop-Tops Are Cute!' Social Knowledge, Social Structure and Ideology Critique. (ch. 15 of RR)

Additional Reading
Haslanger, ‘Ideology, Generics and Common Ground’ (ch. 17 of RR)
Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels, The German Ideology in
Week 9 Pornography and Silencing
Rae Langton, ‘Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts’ (Ch. 1 in SS)
Rae Langton and Caroline West, ‘Scorekeeping in a Pornographic Language Game’, (ch. 8 in SS)

Additional Reading
Nancy Bauer, How to do Things with Pornography
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-language/

Week 10 More silencing

Additional Reading

Week 11 Feminist Epistemology

Additional Reading
Kidd, Ian James ; Medina, José & Pohlhaus Jr, (eds.) (2017). The Routledge Handbook of Epistemic Injustice. Routledge. (may not be out in time to be useful!)
Rae Langton, ‘Feminism in Epistemology’ (ch. 12 in SS)
http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-social-epistemology/

Week 12 More on Epistemic Oppression