1. Course Aims and Objectives

This course will examine numerous timely topics related to feminism from a philosophical perspective, including oppression, the nature of gender, intersectionality, capitalism and feminism, bodies and feminist aesthetics, sex, pornography, false consciousness, and the politics of thought. The course will utilise contemporary sources to investigate these topics. We will critically evaluate some of the most prominent philosophical positions pertaining to these topics, and you are encouraged to develop your own thoughts about the arguments and positions covered.

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Display knowledge and understanding of feminist philosophy.
2. Analyse the various theoretical and practical challenges presented by feminist philosophical scholarship, and evaluate the strengths and weakness of the various approaches made to resolving them.
3. Demonstrate core skills in philosophy, including the ability to interpret and engage with philosophical texts, to evaluate arguments, and to develop one’s own critical ideas in response.
4. Better contribute to discussion of issues related to feminism and feminist philosophy, in both academic and non-academic contexts.

3. Contact Time

The course content will be delivered via two types of classes. We will meet all together once a week for a two hour seminar; in addition we will meet in smaller groups once a week for a one hour tutorial. The seminar will run from week 1 to week 11, and the tutorials will start in week 2. You are expected to read the set text(s) in advance of the seminar each week. The seminar will take place on Thursday, 11am – 1pm. Please check your personal timetable to see to which tutorial you’ve been assigned.

In addition to the seminar and tutorials, I will be available to answer any questions about the course or the readings at my office hours. My drop-in office hours will be communicated once term starts. If it’s not possible to attend to office hours, please drop me an email and we can arrange another time to talk.
4. Assessment

The course will primarily be assessed by two essays. The first is a 1,500 word midterm essay, which is due on Thursday the 24th of October, by 12noon. This midterm essay accounts for 40% of your final grade. The second is a 2,500 word essay and it will be due after the end of the course, on Thursday the 12th of December, by 12noon. This final essay accounts for 55% of your final grade. Essays questions for the midterm essay will be distributed by week 3.

In addition to these essays you will be assessed on your participation in class. This will take the form of an in-class presentation, and will account for 5% of your final grade. In week one we will discuss the requirements of the presentation, and devise a schedule. (If you have concerns about presenting in class, please come and chat to me and we'll work something out.)

5. Course Content and Reading

All of the required readings for this course are available online, via Learn.

Below are the details of required readings for each topic, as well as some suggested further reading. As this is an honours course, I expect you to utilise your own research skills to find further resources. PhilPapers is a fantastic place to start.

A note about course content: Some of the texts in this class contain content that people might find uncomfortable, offensive, or triggering. Some of the articles are sexually explicit; many include descriptions, more or less graphic, of various kinds of abuse (both physical and psychological), rape and other forms of sexual assault, harassment, or degradation. Please feel free to discuss concerns about this content with me.

General and Background Reading


**Week 1: Introduction to the course and feminist philosophy**

Required Reading:


**Week 2: Race, Gender, and Intersectionality**

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Week 3: Oppression**

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Week 4: The Nature of Gender**

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Week 5: Bodies and Feminist Aesthetics**

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Week 6: Sex**

Required reading:


Further reading:
Roupenian, Kristen, “Cat Person” (New Yorker, December 2018)


Week 7: Pornography

Required reading:


Further reading:


Week 8: False Consciousness and Ideology

Required reading:


Further reading:


Tietjens Meyers, Diana (2002) Gender in the Mirror: Cultural Imagery and Women's Agency. OUP. (See especially chapter one.)

Khader, Serene J. (2011) Adaptive Preferences and Women's Empowerment. OUP.

Week 9: Capitalism and Feminism

Required reading:


Further reading:


James, Selma, (2012) *Sex, Race, and Class*. PM Press.


**Week 10: The Politics of Thought**

Required reading:


Further reading:


**Week 11: Course Round-Up and Essay Workshop**

No reading!