

6AANB039 Gender and Philosophy Syllabus – Academic year 2019/20 (Term 1)

Lecturers: Dr Rachel Cristy, Mirjam Müller

Office Hours:

R. Cristy: Mondays 12–1 PM, Wednesdays 11 AM – 12 PM, Philosophy Building 602

M. Müller: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10–11 AM, Chesham 4.03

Seminar tutors: Winnie Ma, Simone Webb, Alice Wright

Lecture: Friday 12–1 PM, Bush House Lecture Theatre 2 BH (S) 4.04

****This outline is an overall guide of the module, but assigned readings may change, so check the updated online version regularly****

Module Outline

This module offers students the opportunity to think critically and analytically about gender. It is also an opportunity to consider the ways in which critical analysis of gender-related issues might contribute to philosophy as a discipline. In pursuing these aims, it will engage with a wide selection of philosophical debates relating to gender across a range of areas within the discipline.

Aims

- To offer the knowledge, skills and opportunity to think critically and analytically about gender.
- To examine how specific philosophical debates across multiple areas including Political Philosophy, the History of Philosophy, and Philosophy of Science, might be transformed or advanced by examining their relation to gender and gender issues.

Assessment methods and deadlines

Summative assessment, 1 x 3,000 word essay:

Deadline: 08.01.2020

Formative assessment, 1 x 2,500 word essay:

Deadline: 04.11.2019

Outline of essential readings by topic

Week 1: Sexism, Misogyny and Privilege

Manne, Kate. 2018. *Down Girl. The Logic of Misogyny*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3: Discriminating Sexism.

McIntosh, Peggy. 1988. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences Through Work in Women's Studies." Reprinted in Heldke, Lisa/O'Connor, Peg (eds.), 2004, *Oppression, Privilege, and Resistance: Theoretical Perspectives on Racism, Sexism, and Heterosexism*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Week 2: Intersectionality

Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics." *The University of Chicago Legal Forum* 140: 139-167.

Week 3: Feminist epistemology

Anderson, Elizabeth. 1995. "Knowledge, Human Interests, and Objectivity in Feminist Epistemology." *Philosophical Topics* 23(2): 27-58.

Uma Narayan. 2003. "The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Nonwestern Feminist." In Harding, Sandra (ed), *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader*. New York, London: Routledge.

Week 4: Gender, Work and Care

Fraser, Nancy. 2016. "Contradictions of Capital and Care." *New Left Review* (100): 99-117.

Anderson, Elizabeth S. 1990. "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" *Philosophy & Public Affairs*: 71-92.

Week 5: Feminism and Pornography

Langton, Rae. 1993. "Speech acts and unspeakable acts." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 22(4): 293-330.

Week 6: The Social Construction of Gender and Other Categories

Beauvoir, Simone de. 1952 [1949]. *The Second Sex*, trans. H. M. Parshley. New York: Vintage Books. Introduction: Woman as Other. Available at <<https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/2nd-sex/introduction.htm>>

Hacking, Ian. 1995. "The Looping Effects of Human Kinds." In D. Sperber, D. Premack, and A. J. Premack (eds.), *Symposia of the Fyssen Foundation. Causal Cognition: A Multidisciplinary Debate*. New York: Clarendon/Oxford University Press, pp. 351-383.

Week 7: Social Categories, Pragmatism, and the Ameliorative Project

- Haslanger, Sally. 2006. "Philosophical Analysis and Social Kinds, Part I: What Good Are Our Intuitions?" *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Supplementary Volumes*, 80: 89–118. [Note from RC: You can skip section IV, 'Concepts, Conceptions, etc.']
- Grillo, Trina. 1995. "Anti-Essentialism and Intersectionality: Tools to Dismantle the Master's House." *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* 10(1): 16–30.

Week 8: Gender Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism

- Stone, Alison. 2004. "Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism in Feminist Philosophy." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 1(2): 135–153.
- Witt, Charlotte. 2011. "What Is Gender Essentialism?" In Witt, C. (ed.), *Feminist Metaphysics: Explorations in the Ontology of Sex, Gender and the Self*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 11–25.
- Appiah, K. Anthony. 1990. "'But Would That Still Be Me?' Notes on Gender, 'Race,' Ethnicity, as Sources of 'Identity.'" *The Journal of Philosophy* 87(10): 493–499.

Week 9: Gender Identity

- Bettcher, Talia Mae. 2009. "Trans Identities and First-Person Authority." In Shrage, Laurie J. (ed.), *"You've Changed": Sex Reassignment and Personal Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 98–120.
- Dembroff, Robin. Manuscript. "Beyond Binary: Genderqueer as Critical Gender Kind." Forthcoming in *Philosophers' Imprint*.

Week 10: Sex and Sexual Orientation

- Lorde, Audre. 1984. "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." In *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press. Reprinted in Lovaas, Karen E. and Jenkins, Mercilee M. (eds.), 2007, *Sexualities and Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 87–91.
- Dembroff, Robin. 2016. "What Is Sexual Orientation?" *Philosophers' Imprint* 16(3): 1–27.
- Srinivasan, Amia. 2018. "Does Anyone Have the Right to Sex?" *London Review of Books* 40(6): 5–10.

Formative Essay Questions:

1. Should scientific inquiry be guided by feminist values?
2. A central concern in feminist philosophy is the oppression of women. What are the difficulties that arise when saying that 'women are oppressed'?
3. When does an advantage turn into a privilege? Is privilege always bad?
4. Should women be paid to provide care work in the family?

Summative Essay Questions

1. 'There can be no sexism against men.' Do you agree?
2. Does pornography oppress women?
3. What are the challenges that intersectional feminist theories face?
4. In what sense, if any, is it correct to say that gender is socially constructed?
5. What role, if any, should practical and/or ethical goals play in the framing of our descriptive categories – natural or social?
6. Is there a form of gender essentialism that meets the goals both of adequacy to the facts and of anti-oppressive politics? If so, explain the account; if not, explain why not.
7. Under what conditions, if any, can the denial or deprivation of sexual satisfaction be considered a form of oppression?

Further readings by topic (suggested for use in writing essays, or just for interest)

Week 1: Sexism, Misogyny, and Privilege

- Frye, Marilyn. 2000. "Oppression." In *Gender Basics: Feminist Perspectives on Women and Men*, ed. Anne Minas. Belmont: Wadsworth, 10-17.
- Heldke, Lisa and Peg O'Connor (eds.). 2004. *Oppression, Privilege, and Resistance: Theoretical Perspectives on Racism, Sexism, and Heterosexism*, New York: McGraw Hill, esp. II and III.
- Hurtado, Aída. 1996. *The Color of Privilege: Three Blasphemies on Race and Feminism*, Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, esp. Chapter 1.
- Manne, Kate. 2018. *Down Girl. The Logic of Misogyny*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Scheman, Naomi. 1993. *Engenderings: Constructions of Knowledge, Authority, and Privilege*, New York: Routledge.

Week 2: Intersectionality

- Carastathis, Anna. 2014. "The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory: The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory." *Philosophy Compass* 9(5): 304-14.
- Collins, Patricia Hill and Sirma Bilge. 2016. *Intersectionality*. Malden, MA: Polity Press, esp. Chapters 1 and 2
- Combahee River Collective. 1977. The Combahee River Collective Statement. https://americanstudies.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Keyword%20Coalition_Readings.pdf.
- Crenshaw, Kimberle. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241.
- Lugones, Maria. 1987. "Playfulness, 'World'-Travelling, and Loving Perception." *Hypatia* 2(2).
- Nash, Jennifer C. 2008. "Re-Thinking Intersectionality." *Feminist Review* 89(1): 1-15.
- Okolosie, Lola. 2018. "Beyond talking and owning intersectionality." *Feminist Review* 108: 90-96.
- Spelman, Elizabeth. 1988. *Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Young, Iris Marion. 1990. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press, Chapter 2: Five Faces of Oppression.

Week 3: Feminist Epistemology

- Anderson, Elizabeth. 2011. "Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- Barnes, Elizabeth. 2016. *The Minority Body*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, esp. Chapter 4.
- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2018. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought."
- Dotson, Kristie. 2014. "Conceptualizing Epistemic Oppression." *Social Epistemology* 28(2): 115–38.
- Fricker, Miranda. 2007. *Epistemic Injustice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jaggar, Alison M. 1989. "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology." *Inquiry* 32(2): 151–76.
- Hartsock, Nancy. 2004. "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism." In Harding, Sandra and Hintikka, Merrill (eds.), *Discovering Reality: Feminist Perspectives on Epistemology, Metaphysics, Methodology and Philosophy of Science*. New York, Boston, Dordrecht, London, Moscow: Kluwer Academic Publishers.
- Longino, Helen E., and Kathleen Lennon. 1997. "Feminist Epistemology as a Local Epistemology." *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, Supplementary Volumes* 7: 19-35+37-54.
- Medina, José. 2013. *The Epistemology of Resistance: Gender and Racial Oppression, Epistemic Injustice, and Resistant Imaginations*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mills, Charles. 1988. "Alternative Epistemologies," *Social Theory and Practice* 14: 237-263.

Week 4: Gender, Work and Care

- Collins, Patricia Hill. 2000. *Black Feminist Thought*. New York: Routledge, Chapter 3: Work, Family and Black Women's Oppression.
- Cudd, Ann, Holmstrom Nancy. 2011. *Capitalism. For and Against. A Feminist Debate*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Federici, Silvia. 2014. *Caliban and the Witch*. 2., rev. ed. New York, NY: Autonomedia.
- Ferguson, Ann. 2016. "Feminist Perspectives on Class and Work." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
- Folbre, Nancy. 1995. "'Holding Hands at Midnight': The Paradox of Caring Labor." *Feminist Economics* 1(1): 73–92.
- Gregoratto, Federica. 2017. "Love Is a Losing Game: Power and Exploitation in Romantic Relationships." *Journal of Political Power* 10(3): 326–41.

- Hartmann, Heidi I. 1979. "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union." *Capital & Class* 3(2): 1-33.
- Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 1985. *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*. University of California Press.
- Manne, Kate. 2018. *Down Girl. The Logic of Misogyny*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 4.
- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 2002. "Woman Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interest, and the Politics of Solidarity." In Holmstrom, Nancy (ed). *The Socialist Feminist Project*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Panitch, Vida. 2013. "Global Surrogacy: Exploitation to Empowerment." *Journal of Global Ethics* 9(3): 329-43.
- Phillips, Anne, and Barbara Taylor. 1980. "Sex and Skill: Notes towards a Feminist Economics." *Feminist Review* (6): 79-88.

Week 5: Feminism and Pornography

- Bauer, Nancy. 2015. *How to Do Things with Pornography*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Dworkin, Andrea. 1981. *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, London: The Women's Press.
- Longino, Helen. 1980, "Pornography, Oppression, and Freedom: A Closer Look" in Laura Lederer (ed.), *Take Back The Night*, New York: William Morrow.
- Mikkola, Mari (ed.). 2017. *Beyond Speech: Pornography and Analytic Feminist Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- MacKinnon, Catherine. 1988. *Feminism Unmodified*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, Part II: Pornography.
- Saul, Jennifer. 2003. *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 3: Pornography.

Week 6: The Social Construction of Gender and Other Categories

- Alcoff, Linda Martín. 2006. *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Beauvoir, Simone de. 2010 [1949]. *The Second Sex*. Trans. Constance Borde and Sheila Mallovan-Chevallier. London: Vintage.
- [Note from RC: This is probably a better translation than the one from 1952, but it's only available in print at Maughan Library, not online.]
- Butler, Judith. 1990. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge.
- . 1993. *Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex."* London: Routledge.

- Dembroff, Robin and Saint-Croix, Catharine. 2019. "'Yep, I'm Gay': Understanding Agential Identity." *Ergo* 6(20): 571–599.
- Epstein, Brian. 2014. "How Many Kinds of Glue Hold the Social World Together?" In M. Gallotti and J. Michael (eds.), *Perspectives on Social Ontology and Social Cognition*. Dordrecht: Springer, pp. 41–55.
- Foucault, Michel. 1978 [1976]. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction*. Trans. Robert Hurley. London: Allen Lane. – OR –
- . 1998 [1978, 1976]. *The Will to Knowledge (The History of Sexuality Volume 1)*. Trans. Robert Hurley. London: Penguin.
- Hacking, Ian. 1999. *The Social Construction of What?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- . 1986. "Making Up People." In P. Heller, M. Sosna, and D. Wellberry (eds.), *Reconstructing Individualism*, pp. 222–236. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Haslanger, Sally. 1995. "Ontology and Social Construction." *Philosophical Topics* 23(2) (*Feminist Perspectives on Language, Knowledge, and Reality*): 95–125.
- Mallon, Ron. 2007. "A Field Guide to Social Construction." *Philosophy Compass* 2(1): 93–108.
- . 2004. "Passing, Traveling, and Reality: Social Constructionism and the Metaphysics of Race." *Noûs* 38(4): 644–673.
- Sveinsdóttir, Ásta Kristjana. 2013. "The Social Construction of Human Kinds." *Hypatia* 28(4): 716–732.
- Witt, Charlotte (ed.). 2011. *Feminist Metaphysics: Explorations in the Ontology of Sex, Gender and the Self*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Week 7: Social Categories, Pragmatism, and the Ameliorative Project

- Ayala, Saray and Vasilyeva, Nadya. 2015. "Extended Sex: An Account of Sex for a More Just Society." *Hypatia* 30(4): 725–741.
- Haslanger, Sally. 2000. "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them to Be?" *Noûs* 34(1): 31–55.
- Lake, Danielle. 2014. "Jane Addams and Wicked Problems: Putting the Pragmatic Method to Use." *The Pluralist* 9(3): 77–94.
- Lawson, Bill E. and Koch, Donald F. (eds.). 2004. *Pragmatism and the Problem of Race*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Esp. Ch. 9: Taylor, Paul C., "Pragmatism and Race," pp. 162–176.
- McKenna, Erin. 2003. "Pragmatism and Feminism: Engaged Philosophy." *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy* 24(1): 3–21.
- Seigfried, Charlene Haddock. 1996. *Pragmatism and Feminism: Reweaving the Social Fabric*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Sullivan, Shannon. 2001. *Living Across and Through Skins: Transactional Bodies, Pragmatism, and Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Esp. Ch 4: "Reconfiguring Gender: Habit, Bodies, and Cultural Change."

Week 8: Gender Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism

Alcoff, Linda Martín. 2006. *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 6: "The Metaphysics of Gender and Sexual Difference."

Frye, Marilyn. 1996. "The Necessity of Differences: Constructing a Positive Category of Women." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 21(4): 991-1010.

Haslanger, Sally. 2000. "Feminism in Metaphysics: Negotiating the Natural." In Fricker, Miranda and Hornsby, Jennifer (eds.), *The Cambridge Companion to Feminism in Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 107-126.

Mikkola, Mari. 2006. "Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism, and Women." *Hypatia* 21(4): 77-96.

---. 2009. "Gender Concepts and Intuitions." *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 39(4): 559-583.

Stoljar, Natalie. 1995. "Essence, Identity, and the Concept of Woman." *Philosophical Topics* 23(2): 261-293.

Witt, Charlotte. 1995. "Anti-Essentialism in Feminist Theory." *Philosophical Topics* 23(2): 321-344.

Young, Iris Marion. 1994. "Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective." *Signs* 19(3): 713-738.

Week 9: Gender Identity

Bettcher, Talia Mae. 2007. "Evil Deceivers and Make-Believers: On Transphobic Violence and the Politics of Illusion." *Hypatia* 22(3): 43-65.

---. 2014. "Trapped in the Wrong Theory: Rethinking Trans Oppression and Resistance." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 39(2): 383-406.

Jenkins, Katharine. 2016. "Amelioration and Inclusion: Gender Identity and the Concept of Woman." *Ethics* 126: 394-421.

---. 2018. "Toward an Account of Gender Identity." *Ergo* 5(27): 713-744.

McKinnon, Rachel. 2014. "Stereotype Threat and Attributional Ambiguity for Trans Women." *Hypatia* 29(4): 857-872.

Shrage, Laurie J. (ed.). 2009. *"You've Changed": Sex Reassignment and Personal Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

[Note from RC: I know the appropriate term is now 'gender confirmation' or 'gender affirmation' rather than 'sex reassignment', and many of the papers in the volume use the term 'transsexual', which is now considered outdated and even offensive. Please bear in mind that this was published 10

years ago, that the terminology in this area has been changing very rapidly, and that many of the contributors are themselves trans.]

Watson, Lori. 2016. "The Woman Question." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 3(1-2): 246-253.

Week 10: Sex and Sexual Orientation

Abelove, Henry, Barale, Michèle Aina, and Halperin, David M. (eds.), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York and London: Routledge. See esp. Chapter 6: Wittig, Monique (orig. 1981), "One Is Not Born a Woman."

Behrens, Maren. 2013. "Born That Way? The Metaphysics of Queer Liberation." *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues* 12(2): 2-7.

Ems, Elizabeth F. 2004. "Monogamy's Law: Compulsory Monogamy and Polyamorous Existence." *New York University Review of Law and Social Change* 29(2): 277-376.

---. 2014. "Compulsory Sexuality." *Stanford Law Review* 66(2): 303-386.

Rich, Adrienne. 1980. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence." *Signs* 5(4): 631-660.

Stein, Edward. 1999. *The Mismeasure of Desire: The Science, Theory, and Ethics of Sexual Orientation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Vance, Carole S. (ed.). 1984. *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul.