

## Feminist Theory (PHIL 275) Spring 2008

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**Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 3:00-5:00 (and by appointment)**

Do women have a female 'nature', and if so, what is it? In the first half of the course we will review a number of profoundly influential accounts of women in the history of philosophy. We will then explore several theoretical perspectives in recent feminist philosophy, with a focus on ethical concerns: what is the moral significance of the (so-called) 'otherness' of women? Should feminist ethics emphasize or deny difference, and on what grounds? In what way should feminist concerns shape our understanding of moral deliberation itself?

We will be using two readers: *Philosophy of Woman*, Mary Mahowald, ed. (PW) and *Feminism and Philosophy*, Nancy Tuana and Rosemarie Tong, eds. (FP)

### Tentative Reading Schedule:

January 10:	Introduction
January 15:	<b>FIRST WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>
January 15-22:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Bk. V; Aristotle, <i>Generation of Animals</i> and <i>Politics</i> (PW 5-31)
January 24-29:	The Bible (Genesis 1-5 et al); Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (PW 32-52)
January 31:	<b>IN-CLASS ESSAY EXAM</b>
February 5-14:	Hume, "Of Love and Marriage" et al (PW 73-87); Locke, "Of Paternal Power" et al (67-73); Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (113-128); Kant, "On the Distinction of the Beautiful and Sublime" (PW 101-112)
February 19-26:	Schopenhauer, "On Women" (PW 134-146); Nietzsche, "Our Virtues" et al (PW 192-200); Freud, "Femininity" (PW 224-241); Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" (PW 201-221)
February 28:	<b>MIDTERM</b>
March 4-6:	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
March 11-13:	<b>Liberal Feminism:</b> Eisenstein, "The Sexual Politics of the New Right" (FP 5-26); "Early Roots of Feminism" (FP 27-47)
March 18:	<b>Marxist Feminism:</b> Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint" (FP 65-90)
March 20:	<b>no class (Pacific APA meeting)</b>
March 25-27:	<b>Radical Feminism:</b> MacKinnon, "Sexuality, Pornography and Method" (FP 131-161); Frye, "To Be and Be Seen" (FP 162-174)
April 1-3:	<b>Psychoanalytic Feminism:</b> Chodorow, "Family Structure and Feminine Personality" (FP 199-216); Flax, "Political Philosophy and the Patriarchal Unconscious" (FP 217-246)
April 8:	<b>IN-CLASS ESSAY EXAM</b>
April 10-15:	<b>Phenomenological Feminism:</b> Bartky, "Toward a Phenomenology of Feminist Consciousness" (FP 393-406); Young, "Pregnant Embodiment" (FP 407-419)
April 17-22:	<b>Postmodern Feminism:</b> Alcoff, "Cultural Feminism versus Post-Structuralism" (FP 431-456); Bordo, "Reading the Slender Body" (FP 467-488)
April 29:	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (8:00-11:00)

You will be required to write **two** in-class essay exams (**20% each**) a midterm (**20%**) and a final (as posted in the exam schedule; **40%**).

### Requirements

1. Attendance is essential; three unexcused absences may result in your dismissal from the class.
2. The reading assignments will be given several days in advance; **you must bring the text to class**. I will be referring to passages in the text, and you will not be able to follow the discussion without it.
3. **It is your responsibility to remain aware of our progress in the syllabus**. If you miss a class, you must find out what the next assignment is, or indeed how far we have gotten in the current assignment.
4. Exam dates are clearly posted in the syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend the exams. **Unexcused exam absences cannot be made up. If you do not complete all the exams for the course, you will receive an 'I' as a grade; after 30 days, this grade will convert to an 'F' unless you have completed the missing exam.**

### Expectations

1. You should read the *entire* reading assignment before the lecture. Your colleagues suffer when you come to class unprepared.
2. You need to think about what you have **read**. I expect you to come to lecture with at least **one thoughtful question** from your reading. (A 'thoughtful question' is a question about, for example, the structure of an argument, the scope of a particular philosophical term, or a claim made in the text by the editors; I'm also expecting you to have questions about e.g. what a particular word or reference means.) In the interest of saving trees, I will not collect these questions, but I will call on you freely, and record the results.
3. I expect you to take these philosophical questions personally. This material strikes at the heart of our gendered human experience, and you need to think about the implications of these works for your own life as well as the lives of others.