

# PHIL 334 Sex, Gender and Philosophy

**Time:** MWF 12-1pm

**Location:** LIFE Room 2202

## Teachers

Jas Heaton (she/they) - Instructor

[jasperns@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:jasperns@mail.ubc.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3.30pm, Buchanan E274 and online by appointment

Ash Lindsley-Kim (she/they) - Teaching Assistant

[aclindsl@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:aclindsl@mail.ubc.ca)

Office Hours: Fridays 2-3pm, Buchanan E280

## Course Description

The course is focused on feminist metaphysics, feminist epistemology, and feminist theories of resistance to oppression. The course will introduce students to historical and contemporary debates in feminism, and will equip students with the concepts to engage with these debates. The course will also consider feminism's relationship to the movements for trans rights, black liberation, and indigenous rights.

## Learning Activities

In this course you will:

- Read course materials and attending lectures
- Participate in group discussions
- Complete group exercises
- Write essays
- Participate in peer review sessions
- Give a group presentation

## Assessment and Assignments

Weekly Group Discussion Exercises - 25% of final grade

- Completed in class Friday each week
- Groups of 3-5

Essay 1 - 25% of final grade

- **Due 11.59pm February 16th**
- 1000 words
- Peer review session in class Friday February 14th
- Topics TBA

Essay 2 - 25% of final grade

- **Due 11.59pm April 8th**
- 1500 words
- Topics TBA

Final Group Presentation - 25% of final grade

- Presented in class during the final two weeks
- Groups of 3-5
- Topics TBA

## **Content Warning and Classroom Policy**

In this course we will cover a number of topics, issues, and real world events that may have affected the personal lives of students taking this course and the teachers teaching it. While it is important that we be able to freely pursue academic inquiry into these issues, it is equally important we be attentive and sensitive to the different ways people might be affected by these issues and by our study of them. As a student it is your right to bring your personal and lived experiences to your studies in this course. It is also your duty to be respectful of other people's experiences, no matter how different they are from your own. At its best the study of philosophy is collaborative, constructive, and respectful of individuality. I hope that throughout this course we will all do our best to embody these norms.

## **University Policies and Support**

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

## **Policy on Late Work**

You are expected to submit your assignments by the due date. Failure to do so may result in late penalties or a fail grade for the course.

If **FOR ANY REASON** you are not able to submit your work on time **please contact either the instructor or the TA** to request an extension.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

**Policy on A.I.**

You are expected to complete all work yourself without the use of generative A.I. (e.g. ChatGPT).

**Class Structure**

Monday and Wednesdays, lecture  
Fridays, group discussion + group exercise

**Readings/Expectations**

You are expected to have completed all readings prior to class on Wednesday of that week

## **Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Oppression**

Week 1, Jan 6

- Marilyn Frye, Oppression
- Iris Young, Five Faces of Oppression - read from section "Faces of Oppression"

**Metaphysics of Gender**

Week 2, Jan 13

- Sally Haslanger, Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?
- C. Jacob Hale, Are Lesbians Women?

Week 3, Jan 20

- Judith Butler, Performative Acts and Gender Constitution
- Anna Carastathis, The Concept of Intersectionality in Feminist Theory

**Gender Identity**

Week 4, Jan 27

- Katharine Jenkins, Towards an Account of Gender Identity
- Talia Bettcher, Trans Identities and First-Person Authority - PDF available on Canvas
- Jas Heaton, Gender Identity and Why Wanting is Enough

**Feminism and Trans People**

Week 5, Feb 3

- Janice Raymond, Sappho By Surgery: The Transsexually Constructed Lesbian-Feminist
- Sandy Stone, The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto

Week 6, Feb 10

- Talia Bettcher, Intersexuality, Transgender, and Transsexuality - read section "Radical Feminism Unanswered"
- Talia Bettcher, Trapped in the Wrong Theory
- Emi Koyama, The Transfeminist Manifesto

**PEER REVIEW FEB 14****ESSAY 1 DUE FEB 16**

Week 7, Feb 17 - **READING WEEK**

## **Feminist Epistemology - Standpoint Theory**

Week 8, Feb 24

- Patricia Hill Collins, Learning From the Outsider Within
- Nancy Hartsock, The Feminist Standpoint, chapter 6

## **Feminist Epistemology - Epistemic Injustice**

Week 9, March 3

- Miranda Fricker, Epistemic Injustice - read chapter "Epistemic Injustice"
- Gaile Pohlhaus, Relational Knowing and Epistemic Injustice

Week 10, March 10

- Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought - read chapter "Mammies, Matriarchs, and Other Controlling Images"
- Anna Cook, Recognizing Settler Ignorance in the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission

## **Politics of Desire**

Week 11, March 17

- Amia Srinivasan, Does Anyone Have A Right to Sex?
- Catherine MacKinnon, Sexuality, Pornography, and Method: Pleasure Under Patriarchy

## **Resistance**

Week 12, March 24

- Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought - read chapter "The Power of Self-Definition"
- Maria Lugones, Structure/Antistructure and Agency Under Oppression
- Marilyn Frye, Some Reflections on Separatism and Power

Week 13, March 31 - **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

Week 14, April 7 - **LAST DAY OF CLASS - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**ESSAY 2 DUE APRIL 8**

## **Copyright**

All materials of this course (course handouts, lecture slides, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of the Course Instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of

the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline.  
Audio recordings of the class are allowed (video recordings and photos are not permitted).