

**PHIL 3510: FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ETHICS AND POLITICS
WINTER 2011**

Course Director: A. MacLachlan
Office: S418 Ross
Office Hours: Mon, 12.30pm-2pm
Email: amacla@yorku.ca

Class Location: Stong College 222
Class Time: Wed, 4pm-7pm
Phone: (416) 736 2100 x77587

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines recent feminist writings in ethics and political philosophy. We will discuss criteria for what qualifies as a “feminist” ethical theory, and will examine several candidates. Topics include the gendered nature of value, the relationship between justice and care, reproductive autonomy, sexual violence, sex work and global injustice.

COURSE READINGS:

Readings for this course are composed of journal articles, selections from books or advanced encyclopedia entries. They are all available online, as links or pdfs on the course Moodle website; you do not need to purchase a textbook for this course.

You are expected to come to class having read and reflected on the readings, and be prepared to respond and discuss the author’s position, arguments and examples. I will clarify any confusion, answer your questions and guide our class conversations.

Those readings listed under “Further Readings” are not required, but they may assist you with your essay, or help if you are particularly interested in the week’s topic. If more than two readings are assigned for a given week, at least one will be very short or accessible.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this course:

1. You will be able to engage in contemporary debates in feminist ethics and political philosophy, and to identify and evaluate the insights, values and theories underlying various positions in those debates.
2. You will be able to think critically about the relationships between philosophical ethics, feminist theory, and gender politics, and to apply that thinking to concrete topics such as sexual and reproductive ethics, institutions of marriage and family, gendered violence and global justice
3. You will have developed advanced analytic and communicative skills in philosophy; namely, the ability to articulate and defend a coherent thesis within an essay, as well as the ability to absorb, synthesize and reflect upon complex information gained from reading assignments or in a classroom setting.

York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty:

(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm>)

Students are also expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website.

(<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity>).

**PHIL 3510: FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ETHICS AND POLITICS
WINTER 2011**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are six components to your course assessment in PHIL 3510:

a) Critical Response Paper: (15% of final grade)

A critical response to an assigned reading, written as a formal essay and guided by a series of critical questions (listed on your assignment, available on the course website).

2-3 pages double-spaced; Due **January 26** by the beginning of class.

b) Midterm In-Class Test: (25% of final grade)

Held in-class on **February 16**; 75 minutes. Format: definitions and short answers.

c) Final Paper, First Draft: (15% of final grade)

Paper topics and specific instructions will be given out in class on **February 2**.

You will submit two electronic copies of your paper draft: one to me, and one to another student in the class, with whom you have been paired, by me.

5-8 pages double-spaced; due **March 2** by the beginning of class.

d) Peer Criticism: (15% of final grade)

You will be asked to provide constructive, *respectful* feedback on your partner's paper draft.

Keep in mind, he or she will be offering the same service to you. Each of you will submit your comments to your partner and to me. You will be assessed on how careful, thorough and constructive your comments are. Due **March 16** at the beginning of class.

e) Final Paper, Final Draft: (20% of final grade)

You will be expected to edit and revise your draft in light of your partner's comments and mine. Your paper will be evaluated both on its quality and on its relative *improvement* from earlier drafts. 7-8 pages double-spaced; due **April 4** by 9am.

f) Participation: (10% of final grade)

This includes your attendance, your respectful and engaged verbal contributions to class discussion and group work (this is a matter of quality, and *not* quantity, of contributions) and *especially*, your participation in our class's online discussion forums. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in a classroom setting, coming to office hours and pertinent email inquiries (again, quality not quantity, please) will also count toward your grade.

Late work (or a missed test) will only be accepted without penalty if you have prior approval from me, or in the event of a documented emergency. All other work will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. After 5 days it will not be accepted.

Some of the topics in PHIL 3510 are very personal, and may be painful to discuss. If you have particular circumstances you feel may prevent you from participating fully in the class or that require you absent yourself from a particular week's discussion, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make all the necessary arrangements.

**PHIL 3510: FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ETHICS AND POLITICS
WINTER 2011**

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Date:	Topic:	Required Readings (to be completed <i>before</i> class that week)
5/1	Introduction	<i>NONE</i>
12/1	Gender, Oppression and Agency	Marilyn Frye, "Oppression" Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression" Iris Marion Young, "The Five Faces of Oppression"
19/1	Doing Feminist Ethics I: Care and its Critics	Carol Gilligan, "Moral Orientation and Moral Development" Virginia Held, "The Ethics of Care as Moral Theory" Claudia Card, "Gender and Moral Luck" Further Suggested Readings: Marilyn Friedman, "Beyond Caring: The De-Moralization of Gender" Joan Tronto, "Creating Caring Institutions: Politics, Plurality, Purpose" Lisa Tessman, "Feminist Eudaimonism: Eudaimonism as Non-Ideal Theory"
26/1	Doing Feminist Ethics II: Justice, Rights and Relations *Critical Response Paper Due*	Annette Baier, "The Need for More than Justice" Samantha Brennan, "Reconciling Feminist Ethics and Politics on the Issue of Rights" Further Suggested Readings: Susan Dimock, "Why All Feminists Should be Contractarians" Julia Driver, "Consequentialism and Feminist Ethics"
2/2	Emotions, Responsibility and Value: Feminist Moral Psychology Topics and Instructions for your Final Paper Given Out in Class	Cheshire Calhoun, "Emotional Work" Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism" Sue Campbell: "Being Dismissed: The Politics of Emotional Expression" Further Suggested Readings: Anita Superson, "Feminist Moral Psychology" (SEP Entry) Alison Jaggar, "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology" Margaret Urban Walker, "Moral Understandings: Alternative 'Epistemology' for a Feminist Ethics"
9/2	Global Justice, Global Feminisms I	Chandra Mohanty, "Feminist Encounters: Locating the Politics of Experience" Susan Moller Okin, "Feminism, Women's Human Rights, and Cultural Differences" Further Suggested Readings: Serena Parekh, "Gender and Human Rights" Adrienne Rich, "Towards a Politics of Location"
16/2	Global Justice, Global Feminisms II *In-Class Test, 75 min*	Iris Marion Young, "Responsibility and Global Labour Justice" Sarah Clark Miller, "A Feminist Theory of Global Responsibility"

**PHIL 3510: FEMINIST APPROACHES TO ETHICS AND POLITICS
WINTER 2011**

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

23/2	READING WEEK	NO READING: GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR PAPER DRAFTS!
2/3	Sex and the Sex Industry	<p>Christine Overall, "What's Wrong with Prostitution? Evaluating Sex Work", Laurie Shrage's Response and Overall's Response to Shrage Martha Nussbaum, "Whether from Reason or Prejudice: Taking Money for Bodily Services"</p> <p>Further Suggested Readings: Laurie Shrage, "Feminist Perspectives on Sex Markets" (SEP Entry)</p>
9/3	Sexual Violence and Conflict I *Final Paper, First Draft Due*	<p>Ann Cahill, "Feminist Theories of Rape: Sex or Violence?" Susan Brison, "Surviving Sexual Violence"</p> <p>Further Suggested Readings: Keith Burgess-Jackson, "A Theory of Rape" Rebecca Whisnant, "Feminist Perspectives on Rape" (SEP Entry)</p>
16/3	Sexual Violence and Conflict II	<p>Andrea Smith, "Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide" Sarah Clark Miller, "Atrocity, Harm and Resistance: a Situated Understanding of Genocidal Rape"</p> <p>Further Suggested Readings: David Sussman, "What's Wrong with Torture" Special Issue of <i>Philosophical Papers</i> on Meaning/s of Rape in War and Peace</p>
23/3	Autonomy and Reproduction *Final Paper, Peer Criticism Due*	<p>Susan Dodds, "Choice and Control in Feminist Bioethics" Sue Sherwin, "Normalizing Reproductive Technologies and the Implications for Autonomy" Debra Satz, "Markets in Women's Reproductive Labour"</p> <p>Further Suggested Readings: Carolyn McLeod and Sue Sherwin, "Relational Autonomy, Self-Trust and Health Care for Patients who are Oppressed" Carolyn McLeod, "For Dignity or Money: Feminists on the Commodification of Women's Reproductive Labour"</p>
30/3	Marriage and Motherhood *Final Paper Draft due by 9am on Monday April 4 (by email)*	<p>Claudia Card, "Against Marriage and Motherhood" Patricia Hill Collins, "Shifting the Center: Race, Class and Feminist Theorizing about Motherhood" Ann Ferguson, "Gay Marriage: An American and Feminist Dilemma"</p> <p>Further Suggested Readings: Joan Tronto, "The Nanny Question in Feminism" RuthAnn Robson, "Mere Switch or Fundamental Change? Theorizing Transgender Marriage"</p>