

6AANB039 Gender and Philosophy

Syllabus – Academic year 2013/14

Basic information

Credits: 15

Module Tutor: Dr Sarah Fine (convenor), Dr Sacha Golob, Prof. MM McCabe, Dr Eleanor Knox, and Dr Raphael Woolf.

Office: Dr Fine: 902.

Consultation time: Dr Fine: Tuesdays, 4pm - 5pm; Wednesdays 11am - 12pm.

Semester: First

Lecture time and venue:* Tuesdays, 12pm - 1pm, room K2.31.

**Please note that tutorial times and venues will be organised independently with your teaching tutor*

Module description (plus aims and objectives)

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 contribute to philosophy as a discipline.

It engages with a selection of the central philosophical debates relating to gender, which cut across a range of areas in the discipline.

Aims

- To offer the knowledge, skills and opportunity to think critically and analytically about gender
- To introduce key philosophical advances that have arisen from thinking about gender

Assessment methods and deadlines

- *Formative assessment:* two x 1,500-word essays
Essay 1: Fri Nov 8 2013; Essay 2: Fri Dec 20 2013
- *Summative assessment:* two x 2,500-word essays (100%)

NB Please note that for semester I-only Study Abroad students, assessment requirements may vary.

Outline of lecture topics (plus suggested readings)

Week One: Dr Fine <1 Oct>: <<Gender, the family, and justice>>

The relationship between gender roles, the family, and justice.

Suggested reading:

- Susan Moller Okin (1989) *Justice, Gender and the Family* (New York: Basic Books), esp. chap 1 and 2.
- Jennifer Mather Saul (2003) *Feminism: Issues and Arguments* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap 1.

Week Two: Dr Fine <8 Oct>: <<Abortion>>

Abortion: a feminist issue?

Suggested reading:

- Judith Jarvis Thomson (1971) 'A Defense of Abortion', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1.
- Don Marquis (1989) 'Why Abortion is Immoral', *The Journal of Philosophy* 86.
- Jennifer Mather Saul (2003) *Feminism: Issues and Arguments* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap 4.

Week Three: Dr Fine <15 Oct>: <<Marriage>>

Marriage: for better or worse?

Suggested reading:

- Elizabeth Brake (2012) *Minimizing Marriage: Marriage, Morality, and the Law* (New York: Oxford University Press), esp. Introduction and chap 5.
- John Finnis (2008) 'Marriage: A Basic and Exigent Good', *The Monist* 91.

Week Four: Dr Fine <22 Oct>: <<Gender and culture>>

The politics of identity, difference, and recognition.

Suggested reading:

- Susan Moller Okin (1999) 'Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?' in Joshua Cohen et al. (eds.) *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).
- Nancy Fraser (1995) 'From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a "Post-Socialist" Age', *New Left Review* 1/212.

Week Five: Dr Knox <29 Oct>: <<Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science >>

Science is influenced by social factors, and has been a male dominated pursuit for much of its history. This week explores feminist contributions to epistemology and philosophy of science, including standpoint theory: the claim that people in particular positions have privileged access to knowledge.

Suggested reading:

- Miranda Fricker (2009) *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap 1. 'Testimonial Injustice'.
- Elizabeth Anderson (1995) 'Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense', *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 10.
- Sandra Harding (1995) 'Strong Objectivity', *Synthese* 104

READING WEEK – NB FIRST FORMATIVE ESSAY DUE - Fri Nov 8 2013

Outline of lecture topics (plus suggested readings) – continued if necessary

Week Six: Dr Golob<12 Nov>: << Gender, Foucault, and Critical Theory >>

Examining two philosophical approaches which have provided the conceptual apparatus for many recent analyses of gender: Adorno's Critical Theory, and Foucault's genealogical method.

Suggested reading:

- Raymond Geuss (1999) *The Idea of a Critical Theory* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), chap. 1.
- Michel Foucault, 'Nietzsche, Genealogy, History', widely reprinted (e.g. in John Richardson and Brian Leiter (eds.) (2001) *Nietzsche* (Oxford: Oxford University Press)).

Week Seven: Dr Golob<19 Nov>: << Gender and Pornography >>

Examining one of the central political issues within modern feminism: the status of pornography. The focus in particular will be on the relationship between pornography, agency, and identity.

Suggested reading:

- Rae Langton (2009) *Sexual Solipsism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap 14.

Week Eight: Dr Woolf<26 Nov>: <<Women in Plato>>

Examining Plato's characterisation of women.

Suggested reading:

- Primary text
- Plato, *Republic* V 449a-466d
- Secondary reading
- Julia Annas (1976) 'Plato's Republic and Feminism', *Philosophy* 51, also in Gail Fine (ed.) (1999) *Plato* vol. 2 (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap 11.
- Gregory Vlastos (1995) *Studies in Greek Philosophy vol. 2: Socrates, Plato, and Their Tradition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), chap 10, 'Was Plato a Feminist?', also in Tuana (ed.) below, in 'additional readings'.
- Catherine McKeen (2006) 'Why Women Must Guard and Rule in Plato's Kallipolis', *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 87.

Week Nine: Prof McCabe<3 Dec>: <<Virtue and Gender>>

Thinking about gender through the prism of debates regarding virtue in ethics and epistemology

Suggested reading:

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, book 1 chap 7; book 2 chaps 1-2.
- G.E.M. Anscombe (1958) 'Modern Moral Philosophy', *Philosophy* 33
- Philippa Foot (2001) *Natural Goodness* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chaps 1-3.

Week Ten: Prof McCabe <10 Dec>: <<Identity and Pregnancy>>

Agency, personal identity, and pregnancy

Suggested reading:

- Galen Strawson (2004) 'Against Narrativity', *Ratio* 17.
- Marya Schechtman (2001) 'Empathic Access: The Missing Ingredient in Personal Identity', *Philosophical Explorations* 4.
- Elselijn Kingma (forthcoming) 'How many in a pregnancy?' (available on KEATS).

NB SECOND FORMATIVE ESSAY DUE - Fri Dec 20 2013

Suggested essay questions

1. Is the family an obstacle to the pursuit of social justice?
2. What is the strongest argument in defence of abortion?
3. Should the state promote marriage?
4. Is feminism compatible with 'respect for cultures'?
5. Has the project of scientific knowledge-acquisition suffered for being a male-dominated enterprise? In what ways has the project been affected?
6. Critically assess what, if anything, the concepts of ideology and/or genealogy can contribute to a philosophical understanding of gender.
7. "Pornography is gender hate speech." Discuss.
8. Was Plato a feminist?
9. How does the appeal to 'virtue', either in ethics or in epistemology, offer a critique of traditional stereotypes?
10. How are we to account for the identity of both mother and child in pregnancy?

Suggested additional readings

General interest

- *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (various entries)
- Simone de Beauvoir (1949) *The Second Sex*. Available at: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/ethics/de-beauvoir/2nd-sex/index.htm>
- Judith Butler (1990) *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge).
- Carol Gilligan (1982) *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).
- bell hooks (1981) *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (Boston: South End Press).
- Catherine MacKinnon (1989) *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).
- Jennifer Mather Saul (2003) *Feminism: Issues and Arguments* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Iris Marion Young (1997) *Intersecting Voices: Dilemmas of Gender, Political Philosophy, and Policy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Gender, the Family and Justice

- Nancy Fraser (1994) 'After the Family Wage: Gender Equity and the Welfare State', *Political Theory* 22
- Debra Satz (2011) 'Feminist Perspectives on Reproduction and the Family', *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2011/entries/feminism-family/>
- Iris Marion Young (1997) *Intersecting Voices: Dilemmas of Gender, Political Philosophy, and Policy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), chap 5.

Abortion

- Elizabeth Brake (2005) 'Fatherhood and Child Support: Do Men Have a Right to Choose?', *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 22.
- Margaret Olivia Little (1999) 'Abortion, Intimacy, and the Duty to Gestate', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 2.
- Kristin Luker (1984) *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood* (Berkeley: University of California Press).
- Laurie Shrage (1994) *Moral Dilemmas of Feminism: Prostitution, Adultery and Abortion* (New York: Routledge), chap 3.
- Michael Tooley (1972) 'Abortion and Infanticide', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 2.

Marriage

- Richard Arneson (2005) 'The Meaning of Marriage: State Efforts to Facilitate Friendship, Love, and Childrearing', *San Diego Law Review* 42.
- Ann Ferguson (2007) 'Gay Marriage: An American and Feminist Dilemma', *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 22.
- Andrew Sullivan (ed.) (2004) *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con A Reader* (New York: Vintage)
- Cass Sunstein and Richard Thaler (2008) 'Privatizing Marriage', *The Monist* 91.

Gender and Culture

- Clare Chambers (2008) *Sex, Culture, and Justice: The Limits of Choice* (Penn State University Press).
- Joshua Cohen et al. (eds.) *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).
- Sarah Song (2007) *Justice, Gender, and The Politics of Multiculturalism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- Iris Marion Young (1990) *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science

- Rae Langton (2009) *Sexual Solipsism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), chap. 12.

Gender, Foucault and Critical Theory

- Raymond Geuss (1999) *The Idea of a Critical Theory* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), chap 2.
- Michel Foucault, 'Genealogy' in John Richardson and Brian Leiter (eds.) (2001) *Nietzsche* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (various editions), part III, chapter 3: Panopticism
- Sandra Lee Bartky (1988) 'Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power' in Irene Diamond and Lee Quinby (eds.) *Feminism and Foucault: Reflections on Resistance* (Northeastern University Press).
- Judith Butler (1990) *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge), chaps 1-3.

Gender and Pornography

- Rae Langton (1993) 'Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 22. Also in her *Sexual Solipsism*.
- Daniel Jacobson (1995) 'Freedom of Speech Acts? A Response to Langton', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 24
- Ann Garry (2002) 'Sex, Lies, and Pornography' in Hugh La Follotte (ed.) *Ethics in Practice* (Oxford: Blackwell).
- Judith Butler (1997) *Excitable Speech: A Politics of the Performative* (New York: Routledge), chaps 1-2.

Plato and Gender

- Plato, *Laws* III, 780d-781d, *Laws* VII 804d-806c, 813d-814c
- Susan B. Levin (2000) 'Plato's On Women's Nature: Reflections on the Laws', *Ancient Philosophy* 20.
- Nancy Tuana (ed.) (1994) *Feminist Interpretations of Plato* (Penn State University Press)

Virtue and Gender

- Miranda Fricker (2003) 'Epistemic Injustice and a Role for Virtue in the Politics of Knowing', *Metaphilosophy* 34.
- Ernest Sosa (2003) 'The Place of Truth in Epistemology' in Michael DePaul and Linda Zagzebski (eds.) *Intellectual Virtue: Perspectives from Ethics and Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Pregnancy and Identity

- Iris Marion Young (2005) *On Female Body Experience: "Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays"* (New York: Oxford University Press), chap 3.
- Linda Purdy (1990) 'Are Pregnant Women Fetal Containers?', *Bioethics* 4.