

6AANB039 Gender and Philosophy

Syllabus – Academic year 2014/15

Basic information

Credits: 15

Module Tutor: Dr Sacha Golob (Convenor), Dr John William Devine, Dr Eleanor Knox, and Dr Raphael Woolf.

Office: Dr Sacha Golob: 705.

Consultation time: For general module issues please see Dr Sacha Golob at Mon 1000-1100 or Fri 1500-1600 in 705, Philosophy. For issues concerning a specific topic or lecture please check the relevant lecturer's staff page for details of his or her office hours.

Semester: 1

Lecture time and venue: Thurs 1200-1300, Strand S-1.27

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 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

- **Formative assessment:** two x 1,500-word essays (check with seminar leaders re details)
Deadline for first essay: Fri Oct 31st.
Deadline for second essay: Fri Dec 12th.
- **Summative assessment:** two x 2,500-word essays (100%)
Deadline for summative essays: Thurs May 14th at 1200 Noon.

Outline of lecture topics (plus suggested readings)

Week One: Dr Devine <<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 Devine <<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 Devine <<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 Devine <<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 Devine <<Prostitution>>

Sex, consent, and the market

Suggested reading:

- Carole Pateman (1988) *The Sexual Contract* (Stanford: Stanford University Press), chapter 7, 'What's Wrong with Prostitution?'

- Martha Nussbaum (1999) *Sex and Social Justice* (New York: Oxford University Press), chapter 11, "'Whether from Reason or Prejudice': Taking Money for Bodily Services'

Week Six: Dr Golob << 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: << 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 Knox <<Women in Science (and maths, and philosophy...)>>

In many scientific disciplines (for example maths, physics and engineering), women are severely underrepresented. We'll look at the possible causes of this phenomenon, including implicit bias, some of its consequences, and some possible responses.

(Nb. It goes without saying that women aren't the only group underrepresented in academic disciplines. Several of the readings focus on race, rather than gender, and you're welcome to answer the questions with a focus on e.g. race if you prefer.)

Suggested Reading:

- Wylie, A. "[Feminism in Philosophy of Science](#)" in Fricker, M., and Hornsby, J., *The Cambridge Companion to Feminism in Philosophy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2006).
- Saul, J. "[Implicit Bias, Stereotype Threat and Women in Philosophy](#)", forthcoming in Jenkins and Hutchison, *What Needs to Change?*
- You should also have a go at the Harvard Implicit Bias tests, available here: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html> - The tests for gender and career and gender and science are the most obviously relevant.

Week Nine: Dr Knox <<Knowledge and Gender>>

In a knowledge-gathering enterprise like science, does a lack of gender diversity simply mean that potential talent is going to waste, or are there more serious consequences? Feminist Standpoint Epistemology emphasises the role of the situated knower, claiming that some knowledge is only accessible to certain groups.

Suggested Reading:

- Elizabeth Anderson (1995) 'Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense', *Hypatia* 10: 3, 1995: 50-84.

- Sandra Harding (1995) '[Strong Objectivity](#)', *Synthese* 104:3, 331-349.

Week Ten: Dr Woolf <<Women in Plato>>

Examining Plato's characterisation of women.

Suggested reading:

- Plato, *Republic* V 449a-466d
- Julia Annas (1976) 'Plato's Republic and Feminism', *Philosophy* 51, also in Gail Devine (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.

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. Is there a morally relevant difference between sex for free and sex for a fee?
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. What's the best explanation for the underrepresentation of women in the sciences?
What should we do about it?
9. Does evidence for implicit bias and/or stereotype threat justify affirmative action?
10. What version of standpoint epistemology can best be defended?
11. What are the epistemic consequences of a lack of gender diversity in the sciences?
12. Was Plato a feminist?

Suggested Additional Reading

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).

Prostitution

Elizabeth Anderson (1993) *Value in Ethics and Economics* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), chapters 7 & 8.

Anne Phillips (2013) *Our Bodies, Whose Property?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press).

Jessica Spector (ed.) (2006) *Prostitution and Pornography: Philosophical Debate About the Sex Industry* (Stanford: Stanford University Press), esp. chapters by Almodovar, MacKinnon, Shrage, Anderson, and Satz.

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.

Women in Science (and maths, and philosophy...)

Gendler, T. "[On the Epistemic Costs of Implicit Bias](#)" forthcoming in *Philosophical Studies* (2014).

Holroyd, J. 2012. "Responsibility for Implicit Bias". *Journal of Social Philosophy* 43:3, 274-306.

Kelly, D. and E. Roedder, 2008. "[Racial Cognition and The Ethics of Implicit Bias](#)", *Philosophy Compass* 3: 3, 522-540.

Kang, Jerry and Banaji, Mahzarin, Fair Measures: A Behavioral Realist Revision of 'Affirmative Action'. *California Law Review*, Vol. 94, pp. 1063-1118, 2006; University of California, Los Angeles - School of Law Research Paper No. 06-08. Available at

SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=873907>

Fullinwider, Robert, "Affirmative Action", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2014 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.) <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/affirmative-action/>

Lane, Kristin A. et al. "Implicit Social Cognition and Law", *Annual Review of Law & Social Science*, Vol. 3, December 2007, UCLA School of Law Research Paper No. 07-37, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1061081#%23

Neil Levy (2014). "[Consciousness, Implicit Attitudes and Moral Responsibility](#)". *Noûs* 48 (1):21---40.

Knowledge and Gender

Saul, J, *Feminism. Issues and Arguments*, chapter 8.

Anderson, E. (2003) "Feminist Epistemology and Philosophy of Science", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminismepistemology/>

Keller, E.F. and H. E. Longino, *Feminism and Science*, Oxford and NY: Oxford University Press

Lloyd, E., (1993) 'Pre-theoretical Assumptions in Evolutionary Explanations of Female Sexuality', *Philosophical Studies* 69, pp. 139-153.

Lloyd, E. (2005) *The Case of the Female Orgasm: Bias in the Science of Evolution* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press).

Longino, H. (1993) "Essential Tensions—Phase Two: Feminist, Philosophical, and Social studies of Knowledge", in Antony, L. & Witt, C. *A Mind of One's Own*, Boulder, CO: Westview.

Longino, H. (1990) *Science as Social Knowledge: Values and Objectivity in Scientific Inquiry*, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Nelson, L. H. (1990) *Who Knows: From Quine to Feminist Empiricism*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

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)