

Gender and Philosophy (6AANB039)

1. Module Description

What is gender? How does it differ from sex? Are either gender or sex essential features of human beings? If so, how are we to square this with the fact that our understanding of gender and sex has changed radically over the course of human history? How do gender and sex influence our ability to understand the world around us and each other? How do they relate to other social categories, like race and class? We shall begin to address these various questions from both a contemporary and historical perspective, attempting along the way to draw out broader lessons regarding the methodology of philosophy.

2. Assessment

This course consists of one hour of lecture and one hour of seminar per week. Students are expected to have completed the weekly readings before each lecture and to come prepared to discuss the material in both lecture and seminars. Assessment will be via two 2,500 word essays.

3. Secondary Texts

- Jennifer Saul, 2003. *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

4. Outline of Weekly Topics and Readings

N.B. All readings are mandatory unless otherwise noted.

- Week 1: Foucault I, The Repressive Hypothesis and the Genealogical Project (Michaelson)
 - Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, Parts I–III
 - Arnold Davidson, “Sex and the Emergence of Sexuality” (Recommended)
- Week 2: Foucault II, Power-Knowledge-Sexuality (Michaelson)
 - Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, Parts IV–V
 - Amy Allen, “Foucault, Feminism, and the Self” (Recommended)
- Week 3: Fricker I, Testimonial Injustice (Michaelson)
 - Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Ch.’s 1 & 2
 - Kristie Dotson, “Conceptualizing Epistemic Oppression” (Recommended)
 - Rebecca Kukla, “Performative Force, Convention, and Discursive Injustice” (Recommended)
- Week 4: Fricker II, Hermeneutical Injustice (Michaelson)
 - Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice*, Ch. 7
 - Kimberle Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex”

- Week 5: Ignorance and Agency (Michaelson)
 - Charles Mills, “White Ignorance”
 - Alisa Bierria, “Missing in Action”
- Week 6: Gender, Justice, and Family (Elzein)
 - Jennifer Saul, “The Politics of Work and Family” (Ch. 1 in *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*)
 - Sylvia Federici, “Wages Against Housework”
 - Susan Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Ch. 5 (Recommended)
 - Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment*, Ch.’s 3 & 6 (Recommended)
- Week 7: Prostitution (Elzein)
 - Scott Anderson, “Prostitution and Sexual Autonomy: Making Sense of the Prohibition on Prostitution”
 - Halle Liberto, “Normalizing Prostitution versus Normalizing the Alienability of Sexual Rights: A Response to Scott A. Anderson”
 - Laura Agustín, “A Migrant World of Services” (Recommended)
- Week 8: Intersectionality (Elzein)
 - Kimberle Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics and Violence Against Women of Color”
 - Victoria Law, “Against Carceral Feminism”
 - Desirée H. Melton, ‘Are You My People? The Surprising Places This Black Woman Philosopher Did Not Find Community’
 - Leslie McCall, “The Complexity of Intersectionality” (Recommended)
- Week 9: Analyzing Gender (Elzein)
 - Elizabeth Spellman, *Inessential Woman*, Ch. 6
 - Katharine Jenkins, “Amelioration and Inclusion: Gender Identity and the Concept of Woman”
 - Iris Marion Young, “Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective.” (Recommended)
- Week 10: Women in Plato (Woolf)
 - Plato, *Republic V*, 449a-466d
 - Julia Annas, “Plato’s Republic and Feminism”
 - Gregory Vlastos, “Was Plato a Feminist?” (Recommended)
 - Catherine McKeen, “Why Women Must Guard and Rule in Plato’s Kallipolis” (Recommended)

5. Sample Formative Topics

- Why and to what extent does Foucault think that gender is not an essential property of human beings? What sort of evidence or arguments does he muster in favor of that position?
- What broader lessons regarding philosophical method should we draw from Foucault's work? What broader lessons would Foucault like us to draw from his work? Is there a gap between these? Why?
- What is 'testimonial injustice'? Why does it matter?
- What is 'hermeneutic injustice'? Why does it matter?