

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Course Title, Time and Location	Course Code Number	Credit Value
Sex, Gender and Philosophy Mon, Wed, Fri 1-2 pm BUCH B 215	PHIL 334A 001	3 credits

Course Instructor	Contact Details	Office Location	Office Hours
Dr. Willow Verkerk	willow.verkerk@ubc.ca	BUCH E 158	Monday, Wednesday 2-3 pm

#### OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

TBA

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the philosophy of sex and gender in three steps. It first looks at how the human subject in the history of philosophy is sexed and privileged as male. It then examines the metaphysics of gender, questioning both essentialist and constructionist versions of gender ontology. Lastly, it pursues the question of intersectionality and its relationship with sex and gender. This is a lecture style course with class discussion.

#### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Students are expected to read the materials before class and come prepared to take part in class discussion. The schedule includes all of the readings which can be found in LOCR or online.

#### ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING

Take Home Exam 1 (750 words) 20% due October 5.

Take Home Exam 2 (750 words) 20% due November 2.

Final Essay (3000 words) 50% due December 7.

Participation 10%: based on participation in class and online discussion. Students receive 2 points for each participation for a total of 10 (participate 5 times get 10/10).

All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

#### SCHEDULE: MON, WED, FRI 1-2 PM

#### Introduction: Sex, Gender, and Feminist Methodologies

Wednesday **September 7**: Thinking Sex and Gender: An Introduction

Friday **September 9: Feminist Curiosity with Perry Zurn**

Read: "Feminist curiosity," in *Philosophy Compass* 2021.

Monday **September 12: Thinking about Feminist Curiosity and Philosophical Methodologies**

Read: "Feminist curiosity," in *Philosophy Compass* 2021.

### **Part I: A Critique of the Sexed History of Philosophy**

**September 14-16: The Androcentric Human of Philosophy: A Critique**

Read: Adriana Cavarero, "Introduction," in *Inclinations: A Critique of Rectitude*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2016, pp. 1-15.

**September 19-23: Sexed Verticality and the Autonomous Subject**

Read: Cavarero, Chapters 1-3 in *Inclinations*, pp. 17-44.

**September 26-30: Homo Erectus**

Read: Cavarero, Chapters 4-7 in *Inclinations*, pp. 46-79.

*Take Home Exam 1 posted September 30*

*\*Take Home Exam 1 due October 5\**

**October 3-7: Becoming Inclined or How To Rethink the Subject of Philosophy**

Read: Cavarero, Chapters 9, 10, pp. 89-106 and Chapter 12 pp. 121-131 in *Inclinations*.

Holiday October 10- Thanksgiving Day

### **Part II: Gender Ontology**

**October 12-14: Sex, Gender, and Desire**

Read: Chapter 1 sections I to IV, pp. 3-22 in Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York/London: Routledge, 1999.

**October 17-21: Identity, Sex, and Language**

Read: Chapter 1 section V and VI, pp. 22-44 in *Gender Trouble*.

**October 24-28: Sex, Gender, and Performativity**

Read: Chapter 3 section IV "Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversions" pp. 163-180 in *Gender Trouble*.

*Take Home Exam 2 posted on Friday October 28*

*\* Take Home Exam 2 Due November 2\**

**October 31-November 4:** Gender Regulation

Read: Chapter 2 “Gender Regulations” pp. 40-56 in *Undoing Gender*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

AND Chapter 1 “Coming to Terms with Transgenderism and Transsexuality” pp. 23-34 in Julia Serano, *Whipping Girl: A transexual woman on sexism and the scapegoating of femininity*. Berkeley: Seal Press, 2007.

**November 7:** Gender Trouble Still: Biopolitics

Read: Isabell Dahms, “Always trouble: Gender before and after Gender Trouble,” *Radical Philosophy* 2.09 (Winter 2020-21), pp. 41-54.

*Final Essay topics posted November 7*

**Part III: Sex, Gender, and Intersectionality**

*Midterm break November 9-11*

Watch: Ted Talk, “The urgency of intersectionality”

[https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle\\_crenshaw\\_the\\_urgency\\_of\\_intersectionality?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality?language=en)

**November 14-18:** Intersectionality

Read: Kimberle Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color,” *Stanford Law Review*, Vol. 43. 6 (July 1991), pp. 1241-1299.

**November 21-25:** Questioning Intersectionality

Read: Brittney Cooper, “Intersectionality,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*. OUP: 2016.

**November 28-December 2:** Intersectionality and Feminism

Read: Ahmed, Sara, “Chapter 1: Feminism is Sensational” in *Living a Feminist Life*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.

**December 5-7:** Review and Concluding Discussion

*\*December 7 Final Essay due\**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

During the course, students will learn concepts central to the philosophy of sex and gender in feminist, transgender, and antiracist philosophy. They will practice talking and thinking critically about the arguments and ideas. The take home exams provide the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the key concepts studied to date. The final paper is an exercise in critical thinking to explore and deepen understanding of one or more of the thinkers studied during

the course. By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with key figures and themes in the continental tradition.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SUPPORT

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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**.

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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. A link about Academic misconduct is below

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

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