Sex, Gender and Philosophy Phil 334    Syllabus

UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (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
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Sex, Gender and Philosophy Mon, Wed, Fri 2-3 pm HENN 202 | PHIL 334 001 W1 2023 | 3 credits

Course Instructor | Contact Details | Office Location | Office Hours
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Dr. Willow Verkerk | willow.verkerk@ubc.ca | BUCH E 158 | Monday, Wednesday 3-4 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 an in-person 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 the Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR).

ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING
Take Home Exam 1 (750 words) 20% posted September 29; Due October 4.
Take Home Exam 2 (750 words) 20% posted October 27; Due November 1.
Final Essay (3000 words) 50% posted November 6; Due December 6.
Participation 10%: based on participation in class and online discussion.
All assignments are submitted on Canvas.

SCHEDULE: MON, WED, FRI 2-3 PM

Introduction: Sex, Gender, and Feminist Methodologies

Wednesday September 6: Thinking Sex and Gender: An Introduction

Friday September 8: Feminist Curiosity with Perry Zurn

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Monday **September 11: Thinking about Feminist Curiosity and Philosophical Methodologies**

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

**September 13-15**: The Androcentric Human of Philosophy: A Critique

**September 18-22**: Sexed Verticality and the Autonomous Subject
Read: Cavarero, Chapters 1-3 in *Inclinations*, pp. 17-44.

**September 25-29**: Homo Erectus
Read: Cavarero, Chapters 4-7 in *Inclinations*, pp. 46-79.
*Take Home Exam 1 posted September 29*

**October 2**: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no class)

*Take Home Exam 1 due October 4*

**October 4-6**: 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 9- Thanksgiving Day**

**Part II: Gender Ontology**

**October 11-13**: Sex, Gender, and Desire

**October 16-20**: Identity, Sex, and Language
Read: Chapter 1 section V and VI, pp. 22-44 in *Gender Trouble*.

**October 23-27**: 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 27*
* Take Home Exam 2 Due November 1*

**October 30-November 3:** Gender Regulation  

**November 6-10:** Gender Trouble Still: Biopolitics  
*Final Essay topics posted November 6*

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

*Midterm break November 13-15*  
Watch: Ted Talk, “The urgency of intersectionality” (*trigger warning for violence against women*)  

**November 17:** Discussion Day

**November 20-24:** Intersectionality  

**November 27-December 1:** Intersectionality and Feminism  
Read: Cooper “Intersectionality” continued  

**December 4-6:** Intersectional Feminisms and Indigenous Knowledge Practices  
Read: Ahmed continued  
*December 6 Final Essay due*

LEARNING OUTCOMES
During the course, students will learn concepts central to the philosophy of sex and gender in feminist, queer, 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 philosophy of sex and gender.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SUPPORT
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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http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959

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