



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME POLS 362/PHIL 362: A Topic in Political Philosophy *20 POINTS*

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Last assessment item due: 18 October 2012

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday 15:10-17:00

Lecture Venue: EA 201

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr. Greta Snyder

Room No: Murphy 510

Phone: 463-5972

Email: greta.snyder@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday 15:00-17:00

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course enables students to engage deeply with a broad range of feminist thought. We will first focus on feminist critiques of social/political institutions and feminist efforts to reconstruct the

concepts that undergird these institutions. Then, we will engage controversies that have created schisms within feminist thought and practice. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

Introduction

Monday, July 15th: What does feminism mean today? Why should feminists care about theory? Why study feminist theory?

Part 1: Criticisms

Monday, July 22nd: Patriarchy

Monday, July 29th: Marriage and the Family

Monday, July 22nd: Rights and Anti-Discrimination

Monday, August 5th: The State

Part 2: Reconstruction

Monday, August 12th: Power/Authority

Monday, August 19th: Freedom/Autonomy

Monday, September 9th: Privacy

Monday, September 16th: Democracy

Part 3: Controversies

Monday, September 23rd: Sex

Monday, September 30th: Care

Monday, October 7th: (Multi)Culturalism

Conclusion

Monday, October 14th: Feminism or Feminisms?

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Ask (and at least begin to answer!) provocative questions inspired by feminist thought;
2. Critically assess feminist arguments;
3. Develop the ability to provide constructive criticism to others and effectively revise one's own written work in response to others' comments;
4. Construct a political theoretical argument that engages feminist political thought; and
5. Appreciate the contributions – both critical and constructive - of feminists to political thought, as well as the diversity within feminist thought.

Teaching format

This course is taught in 1 lecture per week. Each class will have a substantial discussion component. The course is delivered over 12 weeks of lectures. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);

- Lead one discussion (see assessment 2 below for what this entails); and
- Attend the Essay Workshop.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Three 500-word response papers	30%	1, 2, 5	Paper 1: By August 5 th Paper 2: By September 16 th Paper 3: By October 7 th
2 Discussion Guidance	10%	1, 5	By October 14 th
3.1 Essay Workshop Participation: Submitting Full Draft to Discussant by Due Date	5%	2, 3	October 9 th (by midnight)
3.2 Essay Workshop Participation: Quality Comments on Fellow Student's Draft	15%	2, 3	October 14 th (by 3 p.m.)
4 One 3,500 – 4,000-word Essay	40%	1, 2, 4	October 18 th (by 4 p.m.)

There are 4 major pieces of assessment for this course:

1. **Three 500-word response papers** (each worth 10%, for a total of 30% of the final mark). Each student must submit one response paper for each of the three sections of this course: criticism, reconstruction and controversies. Each response paper should engage one reading related to one topic. In it, the student must 1) summarize the argument, 2) indicate how it relates to the other required reading or readings on the topic, and 3) raise criticisms of and/or questions about the argument. These papers are designed to further learning objectives 1, 2 and 5. The response paper should be emailed to the course coordinator *and* a hard copy turned in in-class at the beginning of the lecture on the topic engaged. Because I want your own interpretation of the material and want your engagement to benefit class discussion, ***neither late papers nor electronic versions alone will be accepted.*** The first response paper can be submitted as early as July 22nd and as late as August 5th. The second response paper can be submitted as early as August 12th and as late as September 16th. The third response paper can be submitted as early as September 23rd and as late as October 7th. You will be assessed on the accuracy of your summary, the validity of the connections you draw between readings, and the quality of your critical commentary.
2. **Discussion guidance** (worth 10% of the final mark). Each student must “lead” one discussion during the period from July 22nd through October 11th (weeks 2 through 11). A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the first session. Leading discussion entails preparing four or more questions related to the week’s readings and posting those questions on Blackboard by 3 p.m. on the Friday prior to the lecture. Because other students are depending on you, ***a penalty of 20% per day will be applied to late submissions.*** Leading discussion also requires that you be particularly active in class discussion. If you are sick and unable to attend class on the day you are supposed to guide discussion, be sure to email me prior to class and we can make alternative arrangements. Discussion guidance

is designed to further learning objectives 1 and 5. You will be assessed on the quality of your questions and your contribution to class discussion.

3. **Essay workshop** (worth 20% of final mark). Each student is required to participate in the in-class essay workshop which will occur in the final class of the trimester. "Participation" consists of 2 components: 1) Submitting a complete draft of the final essay via email to both the assigned reader and course coordinator by October 9th at midnight (5%); and 2) Producing a 250 word commentary on another student's paper to give to her/him and the course coordinator in class on October 14th (15%). For the first component, students will be assessed on the fullness of the draft they submit as well as the timeliness with which they submit it. Again, because other students are dependent on your work, **a penalty of 20% per day will be applied to late draft submissions**. For the second component, students will be assessed on the quality of the comments they present to their fellow student. Because there are only four days between commentary and essay submission, late commentaries will not likely be of use to other students. Therefore, **no commentaries submitted after the deadline will be accepted**. Participation in the essay workshop is designed to further learning objectives 2 and 3. We will further discuss the essay workshop and decide assignments in class on September 23rd.
4. **3,500-4,000-word essay** (worth 40% of the final mark). Each student is required to write a 3,500-4,000 word essay on a topic of their choice. The topic must be feminist political thought-related. This essay is intended to further learning objectives 1, 2, and 4. Each student must submit a hard copy of the essay as well as an electronic version (see below) by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 18th. The rubric that will be used for marking the essay will be made available on Blackboard. Students will be penalised for late submission of essays according to the following rule – **a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days**. Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Submission and return of work

There are four forms of written work for this course: response papers, critical commentary, an essay and discussion questions. The first three must be submitted in hard copy. Response papers must be submitted in class on the day of the lecture that covers the relevant readings. Two hard copies of the critical commentaries must be submitted in-class on October 14th. Final essays must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box outside the School office on the 5th floor of the Murphy building.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy. For this course, please email to me an electronic copy of your work on the same due date for your hardcopy submission. The subject line of your email submission should be "Response paper" or "Final essay." The email copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an email submission only will not be marked.

Response papers, critical commentaries, and essays will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for the late submission of assignments. Penalties will be applied as follows:

- Response Papers. No late papers will be accepted.
- Discussion Guidance. A penalty of 20% per day will be applied to late question submissions.
- Essay Workshop. A penalty of 20% per day will be applied to late draft submissions to readers. No commentaries submitted after the deadline will be accepted.
- Essay. A deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

Set texts

There is one set text for this course:

Hirschmann and Di Stefano, ed. 1996. *Revisioning the Political: Feminist Reconstructions of Traditional Concepts in Western Political Theory* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press).

This text is available for purchase at vicbooks.

All other required readings can be found on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

Recommended reading for this course will be listed in a document on Blackboard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course

Student feedback

This course is being taught by a new lecturer. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-charter

- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Course Schedule

Introduction

Monday, July 15th: What does feminism mean today? Why should feminists care about theory? Why study feminist theory?

- Scharff, Christina. 2012. "Young Women and Feminism." In *Repudiating Feminism: Young Women in a Neoliberal World* (London: Ashgate Publishing). Pp. 7-26.
- Bridges, Tristan. 2010. "Gendering Feminism Section" from "Men Just Weren't Made to Do This': Performances of Drag at 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes'" Marches." *Gender & Society*. Pp. 20-25.
- Moran, Caitlin. 2011. "I am a feminist!" In *How to be a Woman*. New York, NY: HarperCollins. Pp. 67-84.

Part 1: Criticisms

Monday, July 22nd: Patriarchy

- Mill, John Stuart. "The question can be raised" and "What good would reform do?" In *The Subjection of Women*. Pp. 1-16 and 47-60.
- Bartky, Sandra. 1990. "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power." In *Femininity and Domination: Studies in the Phenomenology of Oppression* (London, UK: Routledge). Pp. 63-82.

Monday, July 29th: Marriage and the Family

- Okin, Susan Moller. 1991. "Vulnerability by Marriage." In *Justice, Gender and the Family* (New York, NY: Basic Books). Pp. 134-169.
- Josephson, Jyl. 2005. "Citizenship, Same-sex Marriage, and Feminist Critiques of Marriage." *Perspectives on Politics*. Pp. 269-284.

Monday, July 22nd: Rights and Anti-Discrimination

- Lacey, Nicola. 2004. "Feminist legal theories and the rights of women." In *Gender and human rights* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press). Pp. 13-56.
- Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1989. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Anti-Racist Politics." *University of Chicago Legal Forum*. Pp. 139-167

Monday, August 5th: The State

- Rhode, Deborah L. 1994. Part 1 of "Feminism and the State." *Harvard Law Review*. Pp. 1183-1191.
- MacKinnon, Catherine. 1989. Preface, Intro to Section III on The State, and "The Liberal State." In *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press). Pp. ix-xvi and 155-170.

Part 2: Reconstruction

Monday, August 12th: Power/Authority

- Hartsock, Nancy C.M. 1996. "Community/Sexuality/Gender: Rethinking Power." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 27-50.
- Jones, Kathleen. 1996. "What is Authority's Gender?" In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 75-94.

Monday, August 19th: Freedom/Autonomy

- Hirschmann, Nancy. 1996. "Revisioning Freedom: Relationship, Context and the Politics of Empowerment." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 51-74.
- Di Stefano, Christine. "Autonomy in Light of Difference." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 95-116.

Monday, September 9th: Privacy (Video Lecture and Discussion Led by Xavier Marquez)

- Allen, Anita. 1996. "Privacy at Home: The Twofold Problem." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 193-212.
- Ackelsburg, Martha A. and Mary Lyndon Shanley. 1996. "Privacy, Publicity and Power: A Feminist Rethinking of the Public-Private Distinction." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 213-234.

Monday, September 16th: Democracy

- Phillips, Anne. 1991. "Feminism and Democracy." In *Engendering Democracy* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press). Pp. 1-22.
- Mansbridge, Jane. 1996. "Reconstructing Democracy." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 117-138.

Part 3: Controversies

Monday, September 23rd: Sex

- Connell, Raewyn. 2012. "Transsexual Women and Feminist Thought: Toward New Understanding and New Politics." *Signs*. Pp. 857-881.
- Carter, Angela. 2000. "Polemical Preface: Pornography in the Service of Women." In *Feminism & Pornography* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press). Pp. 527-539.
- Queen, Carol. 1997. "Sex Radical Politics, Sex-Positive Feminist Thought, and Whore Stigma." In *Whores and Other Feminists* (New York, NY: Routledge). Pp. 125-135.

Monday, September 30th: Care

- Tronto, Jean. 1996. "Care as a Political Concept." In *Revisioning the Political* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press). Pp. 139-156.
- Dietz, Mary. 1985. "Citizenship with a Feminist Face: The Problem with Maternal Thinking." *Political Theory*. Pp. 19-37.
- Stack, Carol B. 1986. "The Culture of Gender: Women and Men of Color." *Signs*. Pp. 321-324.

Monday, October 7th: (Multi)Culturalism

- Okin, Susan Moller. 1999. "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" In *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press). Pp. 7-25.
- al-Hibri, Azizah Y. 1999. "Is Western Patriarchal Feminism Good for Third World/Minority Women?" In *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press). Pp. 41-46.
- Parekh, Bhikhu. 1999. "A Varied Moral World." In *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press). Pp. 69-75.

Monday, October 14th: Feminism or Feminisms?

- Dietz, Mary. 2003. "Current Controversies in Feminist Theory." *Annual Review of Political Science*. Pp. 399-431.
- Wolf, Naomi. 2012. "How we can connect with feminism's global future." *The Guardian*. Pp. 1-5.