



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

POLS 362: A Topic in Political Philosophy: Feminist Theory 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Last assessment item due: 16 October 2015

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesdays 13:10-15:00

Venue: MY632

Workshop: Fridays 11:00-11:50

Venue: HMLT001

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Greta Snyder

Room No: MY510

Phone: 04 463 **5972**

Email: greta.snyder@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday 11:00 – 13:00

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, then on feminist prescriptions, and finally look at the means feminists have suggested for realising these solutions. Along the way, we will engage a myriad of controversies that have created schisms within feminist thought and practice.

Course content

Week 1 (Lecture on 14 July, No workshop): Introduction, or, the battle over feminism

Part 1: Criticisms; or, What is the problem?

Week 2 (Lecture on 21 July, Workshop on 24 July): Culture and social dynamics

Week 3 (Lecture on 28 July, Workshop on 31 July): Economic dynamics

Week 4 (Lecture on 4 August, Workshop on 7 August): Liberalism and the state

Part 2: Reconstruction; or, What is the solution?

Week 5 (Lecture on 11 August, Workshop on 14 August): Equality / difference

Week 6 (Lecture on 18 August, Workshop on 21 August): Break gender down

Week 7 (Lecture on 8 September, Workshop on 11 September): Battle multiple oppressions

Part 3: Strategies; or, How do feminists build the world they want?

Week 8 (Lecture on 15 September, Workshop on 18 September): The Role of Men and Masculinity

Week 9 (Lecture on 22 September, Workshop on 25 September): Technology

Week 10 (Lecture on 29 September, Workshop on 2 October): Sex-positivity / choice

Week 11 (Lecture on 6 October, Workshop on 9 October): Transnationalisation

Week 12 (Lecture on October 13, No workshop): Conclusion

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. understand and 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; and
4. construct an argument that engages feminist political thought.

Teaching format

This course is taught in 1 hour and 50 minute lectures. The lectures involve a substantial discussion component. Students are also required to attend at least two 50 minute workshops during the course of the term, though they are invited and encouraged to attend more.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least two workshops during the course of the trimester.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

The suggested workload outlined below – amounting to 200 hours in total across the trimester – assumes an average native English-speaking student. Some students will take longer while others will take less time (in terms of absolute number of hours) when completing different activities.

Per week (average)

Lecture attendance: 2 hours

Completing required reading: 5 hours

Completing assignments/studying for the examination: 9.6 hours (note: amount of time spent on assignments/studying will vary from week to week)

Total: 16.6 hours

Assessment

	Assessment Item	%	CLO(s)	Due Date
1	Participation (around 8 hours)	10	1, 2	Varies
2	One 1,800 – 2,000-word Situated Book Review (around 30 hours)	30	2	7 September by 17:00 (submit via BB)
3a	Essay Workshop: Submitting Full Draft by Due Date (with below, around 20 hours)	5	2, 3	7 October by 21:00 (email to Greta)
3b	Essay Workshop: 750-850 Word Commentary on Peer's Draft (with above, around 20 hours)	15	2, 3	13 October by 13:10 (bring two hard copies to class)
4	One 2,800 – 3,000 word Essay (around 50 hours)	40	1, 2, 4	16 October by 17:00 (submit via BB)

Participation (worth 10% of the final mark). To ensure that the course is responsive to student interests and needs, students are required to “lead” one workshop over the course of the term. Each student must commit to leading one of the 10 workshops by 22:00 on 14 July via a Google docs sign-up sheet that will be made available to the whole class. You should collaborate with others signed up for the same week to determine how best to use the workshop time, whether that be revision, relating recent events to the course’s content, engaged in a relevant activity, etc. A workshop plan – including any discussion questions, links to any relevant resources (i.e. news stories, blog posts, etc.), and/or descriptions of activities to be engaged during the workshop (i.e. analysing video clips, etc.) -- should be submitted on the “Weekly Workshop” page of the course’s Blackboard site by 17:00 PM on the Wednesday prior to the Friday workshop so that all students can see what the workshop will involve and prepare accordingly. Students will be assessed on the quality of the group’s workshop plan as well as the quantity and quality of their personal involvement in workshop discussion. This assessment furthers CLOs 1 and 2.

Situated book review (worth 30% of the final mark). This book review of 1,800-2,000 words is intended to help you start preparing for your final essay. For this assignment, you will choose a recent feminist theory book written on a topic of interest, explain where it fits in the landscape on the scholarship on feminist political thought, and critically evaluate the argument. A list of candidates for the book review will be provided. You will be assessed on the quality of your summary, the depth of your understanding of the literature to which this book contributes, and the incisiveness of your critical engagement with the book. More information about this assignment will be posted to Blackboard. The review should be submitted via Blackboard, and is due on 7

September by 17:00. This piece of assessment is designed to further learning objectives 1, 2 and 3.

Essay workshop (worth 20% of final mark). Each student must 1) Submit a complete draft of the final essay by the specified deadline (5%); and 2) Produce a 750-850 word commentary on another student's paper and discuss this commentary with the peer at the final class (15%). The essay workshop is designed to further learning objectives 2, 3 and 4.

1. Your essay draft must be submitted via email to both the assigned reader and course coordinator by 21:00 pm on 7 October. You will be assessed on the fullness of the draft you submit as well as the timeliness with which you submit it. Again, because other students are dependent on your work, **a penalty of 20% per day will be applied to late draft submissions.**
2. Two hard copies of the commentary on your peer's essay should be brought to the final class on 13 October – one for the course coordinator and one for your fellow student. You will be expected to discuss your comments with your peer in class. Students will be assessed on the quality of the comments you present to your 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.**

2,800-3,000-word essay (worth 40% of the final mark). Each student is required to write a 2,800-3,000 word essay on a topic of their choice. The topic must be feminist political thought-related. Each student must submit the essay via Blackboard by 17:00 on Friday, 16 October. The rubric that will be used for marking the essay will be made available on Blackboard. Typical late penalties apply (see below). This essay is intended to further learning objectives 1, 2, and 4.

Submission and return of work

Workshop plans, situated book reviews and final essays should be submitted via Blackboard. Essay drafts should be emailed to directly to Greta. Hard copies of peer commentaries should be submitted in class.

Assignments will be returned at times to be advised.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Late submission of **assignments will not be accepted** unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook.

(See: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf).

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter.** 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. Extensions on deadlines for written work will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

Set texts

All required readings can be found on Blackboard, and can be printed on demand at Vic Books.

Recommended reading

Recommended reading for this course will be listed in a document posted to 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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

The topics chosen and structure of assessments reflect student feedback; changes in course delivery made in response to student feedback will be noted during the course.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz