

Philosophy 202 / Women's Studies 222: Gender Issues
Fall 2010, Thurs. 7-9:50 p.m., HH 1108

Professor: Shannon Dea

Office: HH 329

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Office hours: T/T., 1:15-2:15, or by appointment, or by chance.

Course website: is on Desire to Learn (henceforth "Learn"), accessible via UW ACE (<https://uwangel.uwaterloo.ca/>)

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Course Description:

What, if anything, is the difference between sex and gender? Is one category more fluid than the other? Are either or both of the two categories historically/culturally-contingent? How much of a role do facts about biology play in our ideas about sex and gender? Conversely, how much of a role do our ideas about sex and gender play in the way we do biology? Just how many sexes are there? It turns out that the answers to these questions are anything but obvious. This course teaches students to think critically about these and related issues, and to challenge their own preconceptions, through a survey of historical and contemporary texts from philosophy, theology, psychology and the life sciences, and through a viewing and analysis of two surprising films.

Expected course outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following things:

Course content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → name some key thinkers in the history of gender studies and accurately restate some of their core arguments; → explain key concepts such as gender attribution, ethnomethodology, essentialism, totality, dualism, stewardship, teleology, biodeterminism and social constructivism;
Applying your knowledge:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → apply theoretical approaches in gender studies to individual cases in films and the news; → critically evaluate arguments, texts and preconceptions about gender issues;
Reading and writing in the discipline:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → read and accurately exposit primary source texts and secondary literature from a variety of disciplines and periods; → write careful, focused, well-organized philosophical prose about individual texts and issues.

Warning:

This course contains material of a sexually explicit nature. (Perhaps more frighteningly, it also involves a considerable amount of sometimes difficult reading. Seriously. Those who do not do the readings will fare very poorly in this course.)

Texts:

Phil 202 (Gender Issues) Coursepack, available at the Campus Bookstore.

Some notes on the coursepack: (1) The works anthologized in this coursepack are entire articles/chapters. For some of these, only a range of pages within that selection will be mandatory reading. These page ranges will always be posted at least a week in advance on UW ACE. If no range is specified, the entire selection is mandatory reading.

(2) This coursepack is radically unlike the one used for the DE version of this course; so take care not to purchase the latter. (3) The coursepack will be available on one hour reserve at Dana Porter Library.

(Recommended text) *Checkmate Guide to Research and Documentation*. Eds. Guffrey, Rhodes, Rogin (Nelson, 2010).

Work required:

Philbucks	5%
Five “mini replies”	5%
The weekly question	10%
Short paper (3 pages)	10%
Mid-term test (in-class)	15%
Term paper (5 pages)	25%
Final exam	30%

The fine print:

Philbucks: Phil 202 students can earn up to 5% in “Philbucks” based on their contributions to class discussion. I will award Philbucks to students who participate in group discussions – whether by simply asking a question, stating a view, or arguing for a position. At the end of the term, these Philbucks can be redeemed for up to 5% in bonus marks (.5% for each Philbuck earned/maximum of one Philbuck per class). Questions about course “housekeeping” – i.e., office hours, test details, etc. do not count as contributions to discussion. To earn Philbucks, you must participate in philosophical discussions about the readings, films, and/or lecture material. But don’t be scared – you don’t need to be “deep” or to say the “right thing.” You just need to weigh in.

“Mini replies”: Over the course of the term, each student must complete five “mini replies” about five separate readings. Each of these is worth 1%. You either get the grade or you don’t – no half marks. Using the form provided on Learn, indicate which reading you’re replying to, and then briefly answer the following three questions about the reading: (1) What is the main argument of the reading? (2) What do you like best about the point the author is making (or the author’s approach to making that point)? (3) What do you find most frustrating/confusing/objectionable about this reading? There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. However, the answers must make specific reference to the reading in question. That is, it is not enough to say that you really like the writer’s style. You need to be specific about what in particular about his/her style you like. Mini reply papers are due 7 p.m. on the day for which that reading is assigned. Students may reply to any five readings they wish over the course of the term (even if more than one are assigned readings for the same week).

The Weekly Question: Every week, there will be a 5 minute exercise in which students answer a single question on material from the previous week's reading/lecture. Each question is worth 1% of the final grade. Only your top ten grades on The Weekly Question count toward your final mark (That is – you get two “get out of jail free” cards.) There are no make-up opportunities available for the weekly question.

Papers: Papers must be submitted by the beginning of the lecture on the date they are due. Any assignment submitted once the lecture has commenced will be considered one day late. Late essays are subject to a penalty of 5% per business day. Students must appropriately acknowledge sources for their papers, and must avoid plagiarism, including uncited close paraphrases of sources. For more details on standards of academic honesty in this course, see the assignments and supporting materials on the Learn site for the course.

Final Exam: The final examination will occur during the scheduled December examination period at a date/time/location to be announced. Accommodations for deferred final exams are made only under specific conditions and time restrictions.

Requests for accommodation based on religious holidays must be submitted to the Associate Dean as soon as the conflict becomes apparent; in any case, no later than one week following the publication of the final exam schedule. It is the student's responsibility to make him/herself available for the entire examination period, and **travel plans are not a sufficient reason to have a final exam deferred** (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

Weather: In case of inclement weather, check the UW website for closures. If the university is open, class is on. If there is inclement weather on the day of the midterm and the university is open, the test proceeds as planned. The weather will not count as legitimate grounds for your having missed the test. If the university closes on the date of the midterm, the test will occur next class.

Learn Site and Email: The professor will post details concerning tests, review sessions and assignments on the course UW ACE site. It is the individual student's responsibility to check this on a regular basis. From time to time, the professor will send students important emails regarding (for instance) readings, assignments, review sessions and tests (or -- if they should arise -- last minute emergencies that affect a scheduled lecture). If you would rather receive these emails at your home account (e.g., hotmail, gmail, rogers...), then you must enter that email address on your WatIAM entry. To log on to WatIAM and update your entry, follow this link: <https://watiam.uwaterloo.ca/idm/user/login.jsp>. Log in and then click “Update Profile.” Then, select the “Email configuration” tab. It is your responsibility to stay current with course news by regularly checking whichever email account is listed on your WatIAM entry.

Special arrangements request form:

If circumstances in your life pose an obstacle to your getting your work in on time, you may complete a special arrangements request form (available on the ACE site for the course) to propose an alternative arrangement. This form must be submitted 48 hours before the due date for the work. Submitting the form doesn't guarantee that your proposed special arrangement will be approved. However, the professor will give all requests serious consideration. Special arrangements requests received after this 48 hour cut-off will not be considered without medical or similar documentation.

Schedule

Final lecture subjects and readings are subject to fine tuning, with notice. Students are responsible for doing the assigned readings before the corresponding lectures. Lectures are intended to supplement, problematize and clarify the readings, not to replace them. Any material from course readings could be covered on the examinations, whether it has been specifically discussed in the lectures or not. The film presentations are mandatory viewing; material in them may be covered on exams/assignments.

University dates	Week	Topic	Date	Readings/ Assignments/ Tests
Sept. 13 – lectures begin	1	Introduction.	Sept. 15	Supplementary reading: Foucault (Chinese Encyclopedia); McCarthy
Sept. 24 – open class enrolment ends	2	Methodological and terminological considerations.	Sept. 22	Foucault (Victorians); Kessler and McKenna. Optional online reading: Overall
Oct. 1 – last day to drop a course with 100% refund and no penalty	3	Aristotelian and Judao-Christian models of sex difference.	Sept. 29	Aristotle (Metaphys. and Generation); Genesis; Augustine. Optional online reading: Deslauriers

	4	<i>Orgasminc</i> Film screening and discussion panel 6:30-8:30, Siegfried Hall, SJU instead of usual class	Oct. 6	Rousseau, Wollstonecraft (We won't discuss these in class this week, but they provide useful background to Week 5. They could be covered on the midterm or final, and might be discussed in future classes.)
	5	The "second sex."	Oct. 13	Beauvoir; Freud; Irigaray
	6	The third sex/gender	Oct. 20	Plato; d'Anglure; Nanda <i>(Note: Try to read all three of these for Oct. 20, but we will continue discussing them on Oct. 27)</i> Film: Hedwig and the Angry Inch
Oct. 29 – last day for 50% tuition refund	7	The third sex/gender, cont'd.	Oct. 27	<i>See Oct. 20 readings.</i> Mid-term test Film: The Aggressives
	8	Intersex.	Nov. 3	Kessler; Feder and Karkazis Optional online reading: Fausto-Sterling

				Short paper due
	9	Transexualism.	Nov. 10	Califia; Mastroeni
Nov. 19 – drop period 1 ends. Last day to drop with a grade of WD	10	Bio-determinism.	Nov. 17	Darwin; Clark Optional online reading: Firestone.
	11	The one-sex model.	Nov. 24	Laqueur
Dec. 6 – lectures end. Dec. 8 – drop period 2 ends – last chance to drop without a petition. Dec. 9-22 – final exams.	12	Social construction.	Dec. 1	Hacking, Bordo

Two useful resources:

GLOW and the Women's Centre host resource libraries, which collect various media, magazines, books, and pamphlets focusing on queer and trans themes and women and gender themes, respectively. These great resources are housed in comfortable lounge spaces.

Here is some brief information about each of these libraries:

GLOW - The Queer and Questioning Community Centre

Location: Student Life Centre, Rm. 2101

Library Information: Approximately 500 titles, books and movies related to queer and trans sexualities, genders and cultures. Magazine subscriptions to: *OUT*, *The Advocate*, *Curve*, *Outlooks*.

Themes: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexuality, Trans, Queer, Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, General Sexuality, General Gender

Women's Centre

Location: Student Life Centre, Rm. 2102

Library Information: Approximately 800 titles, books, zines, magazines and journal articles on women's issues and cultures, feminism, and gender.

Themes: Canadian Feminism, International Feminism, Fiction, Women's Health, Culture, Courseware

There will be an optional PHIL 202/WS 222 field trip to these libraries at some point during the fall term. Details TBA.

More fine print:

Cross-listed course: Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/WS cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Women's Studies rubric.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,

<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Verification of illness: Students who are ill and unable to meet assignment due dates or write a term test or final examination should seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of the illness to the instructor within 48 hours by submitting a completed UW Verification of Illness Form to support requests for accommodation due to illness. Students in distance education courses must also provide confirmation of the illness but submit it to the Distance Education Office. The UW Verification of Illness Form is normally the only acceptable medical documentation and is available on line at: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html. Students who consult their physician or use the services of an off-campus walk-in clinic must provide this form to the attending physician for completion; doctors' notes and forms created by the physician or clinic are normally not acceptable. Health Services charges a \$10 fee for completing the University of Waterloo Verification of Illness Form, which is not covered by OHIP/UHIP. Fees for this service levied by off-campus practitioners are the student's responsibility.