This course provides an exploration of central issues in feminist philosophy. It will consider such issues as: “woman” as a socially-constructed category; the nature of women’s oppression; and the relations between gender, race, and class as they function as structures of domination. In particular, this semester we will focus on the concepts of “power,” “knowledge,” feminist consciousness” and “embodiment”. This course counts toward fulfillment of the Women’s Studies minor.

**Texts:**
Bartky, Sandra *Femininity and Domination* (Routledge, 1990)
Additional readings on electronic reserve as designated on the syllabus

**Marking:**
Participation and preparedness – 20%
Midterm exam – 20%
Final exam – 20%
Progressive Essay (on Feminist Consciousness) – 40%

Participation and preparedness – 20%
There is a substantial reading load in this course; as a way of measuring comprehension and ensuring preparedness, there will be regular reading quizzes. They will generally consist of a couple brief questions at the start of class designed to measure your grasp of a key concept or claim in the reading for that day of class. I will often use these as starting points for our further discussion of the material.

In addition to the reading quizzes, for each discussion day we will have 2 students who are “designated readers”. When it is your turn to be a “designated reader” you should come prepared with an outline of the article(s) for the day as well as several questions to generate discussion. This is something that I do in preparation for every class, and it is good practice for you to do likewise, being equally prepared to take charge of the discussion. My goal is to have not only very high-quality discussions, but very egalitarian and organic ones. Please turn in a copy of your notes at the start of class.
Midterm exam and Final exam – 20% each
The exams in this class should be viewed as opportunities to integrate the material into some cohesive and thoughtful articulations of feminist positions. Each exam will consist of several take-home essay questions for which you will type up suitable answers. The midterm exam is due in class on Wednesday, March 23. On the day the midterm essays are due, you will share your work with classmates, who will provide a provisional evaluation and response to your essays. The final is due by noon on May 24.

Progressive Essay (on Feminist Consciousness) – 40%
This essay will be an ongoing project for each member of the class. We'll spend some time talking in detail about this during the first few weeks. I want us to think about several intellectual issues in writing these essays: (1) where we are coming to in our own grasp of feminism and its relevance to our own lives, (2) the nature of feminist philosophical method and (3) the nature and process of writing. You will see on the syllabus that there are 6 dates for turning in preliminaries and drafts of the essay.

- My Initial Statement of My Feminist Consciousness – due February 18
- “My Developing Feminist Consciousness” I – due March 18
  - This preliminary writing should address (1) above
- “My Developing Feminist Consciousness” II – due April 15
  - This preliminary writing should address (2) above
- A First Draft [for peer review] – due April 27 in class, returned April 29 in class
- A Second Draft [for professor’s review] – due May 6
- My Parting Version – due May 18 in class

Miscellany:
It is the student’s responsibility to contact me regarding any absences. Make-up work is not always a possibility, but I will work with students who have excused absences to cover any and all material missed.

It is crucial to the success of the course that everyone do all the readings assigned. This course is premised on your active, informed participation. I recognize that some of the material we will cover is highly sensitive and can be deeply moving and difficult to deal with at times. If, for any reason, you are uncomfortable with something covered in the course, please see me at once to discuss the situation.

I foster an open environment for learning in my classroom. Such an environment demands mutual respect. Cell phones, pagers, and so on, should be turned off during our class sessions. You should not be on call or scheduled to work during class hours. And so on… Thank you!
## Schedule of Topics and Readings for PHI 248: Feminist Philosophy

### Raising the Issues

**Week 1: Introducing Feminism**
- **M Feb 7** Introduction to the course
- **W Feb 9** Consciousness-raising (Bartky, pp. 11-21)
- **F Feb 11** “My Feminism” (no reading assignment)

**Week 2: Mothers of Modern Feminism**
- **M Feb 14** Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex* (e-reserves, to p. 60)
- **W Feb 16** Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex* (con’t.) (e-reserves, to end)
- **F Feb 18** Shulamith Firestone: *The Dialectic of Sex* (e-reserves)

*Initial Statement of Feminist Consciousness due February 18*

**Week 3: Feminism and Philosophy Today**
- **M Feb 21** The possibility of feminist theory (Frye in *WKR*, 34-47)
- **W Feb 23** Feminist Philosophy: 20 years on (Gould, Ferguson and Addelson, e-reserves)
- **F Feb 25** What is Feminist Philosophy? (Diprose, e-reserves)

*Further readings on feminist philosophy in general:*

### Gender and Power

**Week 4: Understanding Women’s Oppression**
- **M Feb 28** Oppression and power (Bartky, pp. 22-32; Allen, ch. 1)
- **W Mar 2** The fashion-beauty complex (Bartky, pp. 33-44; Cahill, e-reserves)
- **F Mar 4** Power and Life (Bartky, pp. 45-62, 99-119)

**Weeks 5&6: Theorizing Power**
- **M Mar 7** Foucault and Feminism (Bartky, 63-82; Allen, ch. 2)
- **W Mar 9** Performativity (Butler, e-reserves and in *WKR*, 371-387)
- **F Mar 11** Butler and Power (Allen, ch. 3)
- **M Mar 14** Solidarity (Allen, ch. 4)
- **W Mar 16** A Feminist Conception of Power (Allen, ch. 5)
- **F Mar 18** Discussion of Feminist consciousness

*“My Developing Feminist Consciousness” - I due in class March 18*
Further readings on gender and power:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading and Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>M Mar 21</td>
<td>Reason (Lloyd in WKR, 149-165)</td>
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<td>W Mar 23</td>
<td>Peer review of midterm exam essays in class Midterm Exam Due in class March 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>No classes – March 25 – April 3</td>
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<td>M Apr 4</td>
<td>Emotion (Jaggar in WKR, pp. 166-190)</td>
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<td>W Apr 6</td>
<td>Subjectivity (Code in WKR, pp. 191-221)</td>
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<td>F Apr 8</td>
<td>Method (Moulton in WKR, pp. 11-25; hooks in WKR, pp. 48-56)</td>
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<td>M Apr 11</td>
<td>Experience (Scott, e-reserves; Collins in WKR 222-248)</td>
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<td>W Apr 13</td>
<td>“World”-traveling (Lugones in WKR, pp. 419-434; Ortega, e-reserves)</td>
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<td>F Apr 15</td>
<td>Discussion of feminist (philosophical) method “My Developing Feminist Consciousness” - II due in class April 15.</td>
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Week 10 Feminists and/in Science
M Apr 18 Nature and Gender (Shiva in WKR, pp. 264-285)
W Apr 20 Empiricism and Gender (Harding in WKR, pp.298-320)
F Apr 22 Biology and Gender (Fausto-Sterling, e-reserves)

Further readings on feminist epistemology:
Embodiment

M Apr 25 Bordo, “Bringing the Body to Theory” (e-reserves)
W Apr 27 “Throwing Like a Girl” (Young, e-reserves)
F Apr 29 Peer consultation

First draft of your progressive essay [for peer review] due in class April 27

M May 2 The burden of femininity (Morgan, e-reserves)
W May 4 The burden of thinness (Bordo in WKR, 388-418)
F May 6 The burden of race (Hobson, e-reserves)

Second draft of your progressive essay [to be reviewed by me] due May 6.

Week 13: Sexuality, Gender and Identity
M May 9 Race and sexuality (hooks, e-reserves)
W May 11 Transgender and sexuality (Bornstein, e-reserves)
F May 13 This Sex Which is Not One (Irigaray, e-reserves)

Week 14: Feminist Voices
M May 16 What makes a feminist voice? (Nye in WKR, 323-338)
W May 18 Your feminist voices: read passages from your essays (select a 1- page excerpt to share aloud and distribute to your classmates)

Final versions of your progressive essays are due in class, May 18.

Further reading on embodiment:

Final Exam Due on Tuesday, May 24 by noon.