

Feminism and Science

Philosophy 309A SPR 2017

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Sullivan-Clarke

Course Meeting Time/Place: MWF 10:20-11:20 a.m. LIB RM B

Office: Asbury Hall 213

Course Description:

Some feminist historians, sociologists, and philosophers claim that “modern, Western science is a distinctly masculine enterprise” (Kourany, 1). How did this come to be? Why are women still the minority in the STEM fields today? Would science be better if it were feminist? And What does a feminist science look like? In this course, we will answer these questions through the examination of the rich and heterogeneous research tradition of feminist philosophy. We will study the omission of women from the historical philosophical discourse on rationality and trace the trajectory of philosophical theories about science as advanced by feminist philosophers and feminist scientists when they emerged in the 1980’s. We will continue our investigation through current approaches, ultimately considering what are the features of a socially responsible science. Central themes include focusing on who is conducting scientific research and the “situatedness” of knowers; delineating what kind of enterprise is science (what are its aims, methods, and subject matter) and detailing the social implications of a feminist science.

Required Texts:

Kourany, Janet *The Gender of Science (GoS)*

Kourany, Janet *Philosophy of Science after Feminism (PoSaF)*

Electronic readings (denoted by * in the syllabus) to supplement the readings from the texts will be found on Moodle.

Course Requirements:

Participation (? @ ? points each)	20%	100 points
Quizzes (2 @ points each)	20%	100 points
Electronic Assignment	12%	60 points
Critical Essay	13%	65 points
Peer Review (2 @25 points each)	10%	50 points
<u>Final paper</u>	<u>25%</u>	<u>125 points</u>
Total:	100%	500 points

Overview of Requirements:

1. **Participation (20%)** Throughout the term there will be various exercises and discussion questions, which you will be expected to complete in class. Other work might include group work or discussion...etc. (Absences can affect this category.)
2. **Two Quizzes (20%)** These quizzes will test for knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures. Format: multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay.
3. **Electronic Assignment (12%)** Students will make a selection from a list of movies that depict female scientist/s and will offer an analysis of the representation based on selected readings and their own experience/information.
4. **Critical Essay (15%).** This 5-page essay is an exercise in philosophical exposition and critique. You will be asked to clearly present an argument that has been defended in one of the articles that we have covered along with the single most damaging problem for the view. (I am willing to entertain topics outside of the scope of the syllabus, but the student should have an outline of an idea and the permission of the instructor before undertaking such a project.)
5. **Peer Review (10%)** There is time devoted to the review and edits of the essay and the final paper. Students only receive credit for providing a review of another student's paper.
6. **Final Paper: (30%)** The term paper (8-10 pages) is to be a critical examination of one or more of the arguments presented in the assigned readings. The assignment is intended to be primarily an independent piece of scholarship. The point is to struggle through the issue you choose in a philosophically sophisticated way, making sense of the issues involved and the arguments that surround them, and defending a position that you find tenable on the basis of those arguments.

If you have any further questions about these class requirements, please see me.

Scales and Criteria for Grading

When converting total points to decimal grades the following scale will be used. To determine your overall class grade, add up all of the points you earned for each assignment, **double that total**, and then use the following chart.

Letter Grade	Total Points Ranges
A	975-1000
A-	960-974
B+	939-959
B	900-938
B-	885-899
C+	868-884

C	850-867
C-	837-849
D+	806-836
D	785-805
D-	765-784
F	0-764

There will be no curves and no extra credit in this class. You will not be graded relative to your fellow students. What this means is that it is possible for *everyone* to get an A (4.0) or an E (0.0) or anything in-between. **In order to pass the course, you must complete all assignments with an additive percentage of 60% or higher.**

Class Policies and Etiquette:

1. There are no shortcuts to learning philosophy. The subject demands that students learn in the old-fashioned manner of time-consuming and disciplined study. This means you must spend time reading the classic texts of philosophy (and secondary sources), devote your attention to lectures and involve yourself in critical discussion of the material covered.
2. Attendance is necessary to do well in the course. If you must miss class for any reason, you are responsible for making up any work missed. Find out before coming to class what you missed and make sure you are prepared for the session. Excessive absences will significantly lower your grade and normally results in failure.
3. Attendance alone is not sufficient for passing the class. Prepare for each class carefully and take an active role in discussions. As a general rule, you should spend two hours preparing for each hour spent in class.
4. You are required to sit the exams during the scheduled times. Do not schedule anything that conflicts with the exams. Do not assume that a make-up exam or quiz will be given if you miss class. There are no make-up quizzes or exams for unexcused absences. If an absence is excused, prior notification is required. Make-ups are rare and given only under extreme circumstances. Documentation such as a doctor's note or police report will be required for an excused absence.
5. Cell phones, pagers and any other electronic devices should be turned off prior to class sessions. Laptops are permitted, but they should only be used for class. Do not use them to work on the assignments of other courses or to surf (FB, game, e-mail, etc.). To do so can lead to a downgrade on your participation score.
6. The instructor is committed to upholding the university's policy regarding academic dishonesty. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Schedule of Topics

Week 1	What is Philosophy, and Philosophy of Science?	
M 01/30	Introduction, Syllabus	Video: "What is Philosophy?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKyt3GY
W 02/01	Philosophy of Science	Machamer, "Chapter One"*
F 02/03	Fem. Philosophy of Science	Kourany, "Chapter One"(PoSaF)
Week 2	What is Fem. Philosophy? And Fem. Philosophy of Science?	
M 02/06	Feminism	Scholz, Chapters 1 and 2*
W 02/08	Feminist Philosophy	Kourany, "Chapter Three"(PoSaF)
F 02/10	Fem. Phil., cont.	Keller, "Feminism and Science"*
Week 3	Who are the Scientists?	
M 02/13	Historically Speaking	Schiebinger, "Women in the Origins of Modern Science"(GoS)
W 02/15	Historically, cont.	Harding, "Women of Third World Descent in the Sciences" (GoS)
F 02/17	Recently Speaking	Gornick, "Women in Science: Half In, Half Out"(GoS)
Week 4	Who?, cont.	
M 02/20	Recently, cont.	Keller, "The Anomaly of a Woman in Physics"(GoS)
W 02/22	Currently Speaking	Angier, "Women Join the Ranks of Science but Remain Invisible at the Top"(GoS)
F 02/24	Currently, cont. Critical Essay Assigned	Goldberg, "Creeping Toward Inclusivity in Science"(GoS)
Week 5	Science's Aims, Methods, and Norms of Behavior	
M 02/27	Masculine Practice	Easlea, "Patriarchy, Scientists, and Nuclear Warriors"(GoS)
W 03/01	Cultural Practice	Middlecamp, "Culturally Inclusive Chemistry"(GoS)

F 03/03	Methodology	Keller, "A World of Difference"(GoS)
Week 6	Subject Matter	
M 03/06	Quiz 1	No Assigned Reading
W 03/08	Subject Matter	Hubbard, "Have Only Men Evolved?"(GoS)
F 03/10	Peer Review Edits	No Assigned Reading
Week 7	Subject Matter, cont.	
Mon. 03/13	Metaphors and Concepts	The Biology and Gender Study Group, "The Importance of Feminist Critique for Contemporary Cell Biology"(GoS)
Weds. 03/15	Successful Critiques	Wylie, "The Engendering of Archaeology; Refiguring Feminist Science Studies"(GoS)
Fri. 03/17	Unsuccessful Ones	Wilkinson, "Still Seeking Transformation; Feminist Challenges to Psychology"(GoS)
Week 8	Science's Social Effects	
M 03/20	Medical Omissions Critical Essay Due	Rosser, "Androcentric Bias in Clinical Research"(GoS)
W 03/22	Intersectionality	Krieger and Fee, "Man-Made Medicine and Women's Health: The Biopolitics of Sex/Gender and Race/Ethnicity"(GoS)
F 30/24	Interests	Hubbard, "The New Procreative Technologies"(GoS)
Week 9	Spring Break!	
Week 10	Science's Social Effects, Intelligence	
M 04/03	Social Repercussions	Fausto-Sterling, "A Question of Genius: Are Men Really Smarter than Women?"(GoS)
W 04/05		Genova, "Women and the Mismeasure of Thought"*
F 04/07	Method and Society	Stepan, "Race and Gender: The Role of Analogy in Science"*

Week 11	Representation of 'Female' Scientists	
M 04/10	Quiz 2	No Assigned Reading
W 04/12	Movies APA	Flicker, "Between Brains and Breasts—Women Scientists in Fiction Film: on the Marginalization and Sexualization of Scientific Competence"*
F 04/14	APA	Electronic Assignment submitted on Moodle
Week 12	Representation, cont.	
M 04/17	Movie Sharing Time! Final Paper Assignment	No Assigned Reading
W 04/19	News Articles	Fahy.pdf*, Bell.pdf*, Pollack.pdf
F 04/21	Television	Whitney.pdf DVD: <i>Big Bang Theory</i> Video: EU Ad "Science, It's a Girl Thing"
Week 13	What Kind of Enterprise Ought Science to Be?	
M 04/24	Feminist Empiricism	Hundleby, "Feminist Empiricism"*
W 04/26	Fem. Emp., cont.	Longino, "Subjects, Power, and Knowledge: Description and Prescription in Feminist Philosophies of Science"(GoS)
F 04/28	Fem. Emp., cont.	Hankinson-Nelson, "Epistemological Communities"(GoS)
Week 14	What Kind of Enterprise, cont.	
M 05/01	Standpoint Theory	Harding, "Strong Objectivity"(GoS)
W 05/03	Standpoint, cont.	Ladner, "Introduction to Tomorrow's Tomorrow: The Black Woman"(GoS)
F 05/05	Peer Review	No Assigned Reading
Week 15	A Feminist Philosophy of Science	
M 05/08	Challenges	Kourany, "Chapter Four"(PoSaF)
W 05/10	Prospects	Kourany, "Chapter Five"(PoSaF)
Final Exam: 05/16 Tuesday- Final Paper submitted via Moodle.		