

PHIL 008/ WMNST 008 ~ SPRING 2011
Philosophy and Feminism
Kathryn T. Gines, Ph.D.

Lecture/Discussion: MW 3:35 pm – 4:50 pm (1/10/11 – 4/27/11), 26 Holster

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:25 pm – 3:25 pm and by Appointment

Office Location: 240 Sparks Building, (814) 865-1652, ktg3@psu.edu

Course Description:

(GENERAL) We will explore diverse feminist philosophies of culture and knowledge, and examine gender's role in accounts of reality, truth, morality, and justice.

(SPECIFIC) Reading essays from a broad range of scholars (diverse in discipline, age, class, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, nationality, and perspectives) we will examine some of the convergences that have emerged between philosophy and feminism.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to major themes in philosophy and feminism.
2. To help students make a connection between philosophy, feminism, and everyday life (from finding meaning in life to using philosophy and feminism to enhance critical thinking about day to day situations).
3. To correct and expand the traditional definitions and conceptions of philosophy and feminism by exposing students to multiple philosophical and feminist voices rather than limiting them to a more narrow and exclusive narrative of philosophy and feminism.
4. To provide students with an opportunity to enhance their writing, reading, and critical thinking skills through philosophical readings, writings, and their own active, intentional class participation.

Mode of Instruction:

Lecture combined with an emphasis on class discussion and participation.

Required Text:

Convergences: Black Feminism and Continental Philosophy edited by Maria Davidson, Kathryn T. Gines, and Donna-Dale Marcano (SUNY Press 2010)

Course Requirements/Assignments:

- **Personal Essay** (5% of final grade)
- **Class Participation**, (15% of final grade)
- **Exegesis of all of the Readings** (20% of final grade)
*Due by 11pm each Sunday night (before class on Monday) – on ANGEL start 1/31
- **Insights from Class** - e.g. something you learned, a comment made in class, a paradigm shift, etc. (20% of final grade)
*Due by 11pm on each Monday and Wednesday (after class) – on ANGEL start 1/31
- **Mid-Semester Portfolio** (20% of final grade)
- **End-of Semester Portfolio** (20% of final grade)

Grading Policy/Scale:

A = 95 to 100; A- = 90 to 94.9; B+ = 87.9 to 89.9; B = 83.33 to 87.8; B- = 80 to 83.32; C+ = 75 to 79.9; C = 70 to 74.9; D = 60 to 69.9 and F = 59.9 and below. The Penn State grading scale does not allow the option of awarding grades of C-, D+ or D- grades.

Academic Integrity:

From the College of Liberal Arts: "Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20). Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction." See Also: <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial/definition>

Attendance:

From The University Faculty Senate Policy 42-27: "It is the policy of the University that class attendance by students be encouraged and that all instructors organize and conduct their courses with this policy in mind. **A student should attend every class for which the student is scheduled and should be held responsible for all work covered in the courses taken.** In each case, the instructor should decide when the class absence constitutes a danger to the student's scholastic attainment and should make this fact known to the student at once. A student whose irregular attendance causes him or her, in the judgment of the instructor, to become deficient scholastically, may run the risk of receiving a failing grade or receiving a lower grade than the student might have secured had the student been in regular attendance." (My emphasis.)

N.B. (*nota bene* – note well, observe carefully, or take special notice)

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
- Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time. Absenteeism and tardiness adversely affect your grade, while attendance and punctuality (which are expected) do not (directly) boost your grade.
- Students are expected to read assignments before each class and to be prepared to discuss the weekly readings.
- Use of laptops, cell phones, ipods/mp3s and other electronic devices (for texting, internet, email, games, entertainment, and related purposes) during the class is unacceptable.

Disability Access Statement: The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. **Questions about disability access can be referred to Jennifer Morris at jxm2@psu.edu or (814) 863-5538.**

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Reading and Assignment Schedule - First Half of the Semester

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|---|------|---|
| M | 1/10 | Introductions, Review Syllabus, Explain Personal Essay Assignment
(Index Cards: Full Name, Preferred Name, Major, Classification,
Phone #/email, Previous Philosophy Courses) |
| W | 1/12 | Personal Essay Presentations (15) |
| M | 1/17 | NO CLASS – King Holiday |
| W | 1/19 | Personal Essay Presentations (15) |
| M | 1/24 | Personal Essay Presentations (15) |
| W | 1/26 | <i>Convergences</i> , Foreword and Introduction (pages ix-11) |
| M | 1/31 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter One (pages 13-33) |
| W | 2/2 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 2/7 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Two (pages 35-51) |
| W | 2/9 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 2/14 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Three (pages 53-65) |
| W | 2/16 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 2/21 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Four (pages 67-84) |
| W | 2/23 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 2/28 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Five (pages 85-104) |
| W | 3/2 | DUE: Midterm Portfolio
Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion
Mid-Semester Evaluations |

3/6-3/12 ...NO CLASS...SPRING BREAK

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Reading and Assignment Schedule - Second Half of the Semester

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|---|------|---|
| M | 3/14 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Six (pages 105-119) |
| W | 3/16 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 3/21 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Seven |
| W | 3/23 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 3/28 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Eight |
| W | 3/30 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 4/4 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Nine |
| W | 4/6 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 4/11 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Ten |
| W | 4/13 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 4/18 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Eleven |
| W | 4/20 | Connecting the text to your world – In Depth Class Discussion |
| M | 4/25 | <i>Convergences</i> , Chapter Twelve <u>AND</u> Afterword |
| W | 4/27 | LAST CLASS, Semester Overview, Open Discussion |

(Final Portfolio Due Monday of Finals Week)