

Western University
Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
Winter 2025

GSWS 3326G: FEMINIST PHENOMENOLOGY

Instructor: Prof. Helen Fielding
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: 519-661-2111 X 84548
E-mail: hfieldin@uwo.ca

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With the The Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Neutral peoples, on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This place continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are recognized as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to society.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Feminist phenomenology is rooted in the study of lived experience. As theory and methodology, it begins with everyday lived experiences which are understood from within a matrix of social, political and institutional forces and structures. We will learn how to make sense of our everyday lives from a feminist critical perspective. For example, the #Me Too movement follows in the tradition of naming and bringing to light that is inherent to feminist phenomenology. Bringing the phenomena (lived experience) to light through description, artworks and literature allows us to analyze how experience is shaped by forces beyond the individual, which can also work to shift the experiences themselves. In this course we will consider some key texts coming out of this tradition, including works by thinkers such as Sara Ahmed, bell hooks, Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Linda Martín Alcoff, and Mariana Ortega. We will consider how phenomenology has been taken up in queer, trans*, decolonial and critical disability theories.

COURSE TEXTS

All readings are accessible through OWL Brightspace.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To be able to articulate embodied ways of theorizing
To develop further feminist experience-based methodologies
To understand what it means to subvert mind/body dualism
To be able to articulate more clearly the interrelatedness of all beings

EVALUATION

Participation	10%
Group Project	15%
Lived Experience Discussion Paper	15%
Essay (7-9 pages)	30%

Final Exam (2 hours during exam period) 30%

Participation is based on demonstrating that you have read and engaged with the texts.

Group Project: students will work in groups of 3 (or 4). Each group will have 20 minutes, 15 minutes to present their project with an extra 5 minutes for discussion.

Electronic Devices: No electronic aids (including smart phones and smart watches) will be permitted for the exam.

Use of Generated Artificial Intelligence:

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Absences at Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf

Audit: Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Western's Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Academic Accommodation is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.”

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible**

Education at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students”

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE