

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2016 – J. Epp
Philosophy 2077G: Gender and Sexuality

Winter Term 2016
Monday, 6:00 – 9:00pm
TC 201

Instructor: Jennifer Epp
Office Hours: TBA
Location: TBA
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this class we will explore the concepts of sex, gender and sexuality as they are lived and experienced as well as theorized. We will treat each category as a site of ontological, epistemic, political and moral controversy. In so doing we will attend to the complex ways in which, together, expressions of sex, gender and sexuality enable subjectivity, knowledge, collective and personal identity, autonomy, oppression, social control and moral and political demands and actions.

Topics include: biological determinism and social construction; challenges to binary models of sex/gender/sexuality; expressions of gender, including femininities and masculinities; neurosexism and sex/gender in science; gendered global economies and nationalisms; sexual orientations and practices; and sexual violence.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) To develop students' abilities to make and critique philosophical arguments;
- 2) To familiarize students with relevant debates in feminist and queer theory, and to understand the complexity of these debates;
- 3) To enable students to articulate and revise their own position in relation to these debates;
- 4) To encourage students to recognize and critically engage with contributions to these debates in academic literature and popular media.

TEXTS

PDF's and links to articles online and via UWO libraries, available on WebCT.

REQUIREMENTS

Will be chosen by the class via discussion and voting on the following three options, and if Option 3 is chosen the Open projects will also be chosen by the class but must result in at least 10 pages of writing in total:

Option 1:

Question Assignment, 1 page,	10%
Revised Question, 2 pages,	10%
Answer, 5 pages,	25%
Class Reflections, 10 each worth 1%	10%
Reading critique	10%
Exam <u>or</u> 5 Pop Quizzes worth 5% each	25%

Option 2:

First essay, 4-5 pages	25%
Second essay, 5-6 pages	30%
Class Reflections, 10 each worth 1%	10%
Relevance assignment	5%
Exam <u>or</u> 6 Pop Quizzes worth 5% each	30%

Option 3:

Open Project 1 (presentation, video, essay, etc.)	25%
Open Project 2 (blog, reading critiques, question diary, etc.)	25%
Practice argument	10%
Class Reflections, 10 each worth 1%	10%
Exam <u>or</u> 6 Pop Quizzes worth 5% each	30%

Please check OWL for an updated syllabus once voting is complete.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

All course work must be submitted electronically through the Assignments section of OWL. (Do not submit to DropBox.) I have set up the assignments section so that course work submitted there is automatically sent to Turnitin. Do **not** submit a paper copy.

If you have difficulty in submitting the paper to the Assignments section of OWL please e-mail a copy of your paper to the instructor by the due date to prevent your paper from being considered late.

ANONYMOUS GRADING:

To avoid bias I will grade your essays and final exam **anonymously**. **Please do not include your name anywhere on your essays or on the exam. Include your student number instead.** I will know who you are and what you have thought about *after* grading your work.

In-class reflections are not graded anonymously since all properly submitted reflections receive a guaranteed 1%.

To help with anonymous grading, **please save the documents you submit to Turnitin with the following naming system:** Student number, E for essay, the # of the essay, Q for question, the # of the question you chose. **E.g. “222555111, E1, Q1”.** **Failure to title assignments this way will result in a .5 deduction from the final paper grade.**

Essay assignments and grading rubrics will be posted in the Assignments section of OWL.

WEBCT:

Please check the announcements section of webct regularly.

CLASS REFLECTIONS:

After each class write a response to anything discussed in class or in the readings for class that day. Your reflection **MUST** be **directly related to class content** and must **engage** with that content. **You must come to class to submit a class reflection.**

To engage, **say something that was not said in class or in the reading.** The goal is to give you a chance to respond to what we have done, and learn from it, *for yourself*.

Try this: What puzzles you? What questions do you have for the author or others, and why are they important to ask? Why did something bother you or excite you? Is the author correct? Why or why not? Is there something that is relevant to the discussion that was left out? Does the topic relate to your personal experience or to something you've seen in the media? If so, what did you learn? Are there connections between this discussion and things you are learning in other classes? Why is the issue complicated or important? Can you give a unique interpretation of a topic we are discussing? Do you have a suggestion or objection or argument that you want to work out?

Caution: Saying that you found something interesting/boring, good/bad or right/wrong, without trying to say why, doesn't allow you to engage with the material. Go further than that and **explain why.** You cannot engage with the material by simply repeating what was said in class (though you may want to present different interpretations of what has been said and evaluate them).

There is no length requirement. This is a chance to figure out what you think about something and why you think it, and/or to deepen your understanding of the material by working out what you need to learn and what you understand well. It also allows me to understand what you, and the class in general, is engaged by or needs. So the length of your reflection will depend on what you need or want to work out for yourself.

I read every response but I do not comment on responses except, on rare occasions, to recommend further reading or to raise a question (even when I really want to say more!). That allows you to write freely, without feeling like you have to try to figure out what I

want you to say. In my experience, the quality of the reflections is much higher this way. Think of them as a chance to talk to yourself about what you are learning.

Each response is worth 1%, and every submitted response is guaranteed the 1% as long as it engages with course content. All responses must be submitted by no later than 4pm on the day immediately after class either on paper or via e-mail. If submitting by e-mail you must use your UWO e-mail account and each reflection must be sent in a new message (do not 'reply' to any previous message to send your reflection). This ensures that I can easily keep track of your reflections. If you do not follow this procedure, I will not be responsible for lost work. If submitting on paper hand your reflection in right after class or by using the Dropbox on the first floor of Stevenson Hall beside the elevator.

LATE POLICY and ACCOMMODATIONS:

I accept late papers and other work with a **penalty of 2% per day**, but I **cannot accept assignments after the last day of class** without accommodation from an academic counselor. If you would like accommodation for any assignment worth more than 10% you must also see your academic counselor.

I may offer accommodation if you **speak to me *before assignments are due***, and I accommodate for family care, work, illness, student politics or club work, arts and sports commitments, etc. with adequate proof of this commitment.

ACCESSIBILITY:

Every effort will be made to make this class accessible. Part of the content of this course concerns the many different ways in which a context or activity can be inaccessible. We usually think of disability in relation to accessibility, and that's relevant, but so are many other factors. Please talk to me as soon as possible if you have *any* accessibility concerns and we will address them together (it often isn't possible to do this retroactively, so please do see me early on).

PLAGIARISM:

You may not submit assignments, or portions of assignments, that were prepared for other courses. All instances of suspected plagiarism will be taken very seriously. Cite all direct quotes, use quotation marks, cite all ideas that you got from somewhere else even if you are not using quotes, include a bibliography of any external resources that you use in anything submitted for this class.

EXAM INDEX CARDS (if relevant):

At the *beginning* of class you may submit one 3x5 inch index card per article that we are discussing in class that day. On the card you may write *any* notes about that particular reading that you wish to write. Please discuss only one article on each card. Cards may only be submitted if you attend the full class and must be submitted before class begins. Cards may only be submitted on the first day in which we discuss that particular article in class. I will return the cards to you at the beginning of the final exam. Please clearly indicate your name on the cards.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes. The Department of Philosophy Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.