Feminist Political Philosophy
PHIL 643/CRN 25971
T/Th 6:00-7:50pm
353 PLC

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Description
This course is designed to introduce students to some key problems and key texts in feminist political philosophy. The themes I have selected for this year’s course include: the social contract, sexual harassment; feminist notions of power, freedom and the political; the recognition/redistribution debate; and the question of culture. We will have guest lectures by Amy Allen, author of *The Politics of Our Selves: Power, Autonomy, and Gender in Contemporary Critical Theory* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008) and *The Power of Feminist Theory: Domination, Resistance, Solidarity* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1999); and Caroline Forell, author, with Donna Matthews, of the book: "A Law of Her Own: The Reasonable Woman as a Measure of Man" (NYU Press, 2000) (paperback 2001). Forell has written extensively about the legal and ethical standards appropriate for intimate relationships involving various professionals and those they are responsible for, including attorney-client, faculty-student and doctor-patient. Her articles about attorney-client sex have spurred law reform and revision of codes of ethical conduct.

This term we will start each class with a student led discussion (the first ½ hour), this will generally be followed by a lecture, with more discussion at the end of the class period.

Course Requirements
Discussion Leadership: Each graduate student taking the course for credit will take responsibility for leading a number of ½ hour discussions of the materials for one day’s class, those taking the course as a reading, auditing, taking it for partial credit, etc., will lead (at least) one discussion. When more than one essay is assigned, discussions should be introduced in such a way that the themes of the essays are linked, and students are invited to respond to and discuss any of the readings for the day.

Paper Proposal: Due week 8. Guidelines will be handed out in class.

Final Paper: Due Wednesday of finals week.

Texts
At the Copy Shop on 13th: *Course Reader* (ask for the course reader “on reserve” for PHIL 643 and copy it).
At the UO Bookstore:
Catherine MacKinnon, *Sexual Harassment of Working Women* (Yale University Press, 1979)
Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminism* (Routledge, 1997)

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability please let me know right away what accommodations are needed.
Calendar/Dates

**Introduction**

**Week 1**

1/10  *Opening Lecture*

**Unit 1: The Sexual Contract**

1/12  Pateman: “Contracting In” and “Patriarchal Confusions”  pp.1-38 (38)

**Week 2**


1/19  Pateman: “Wives, Slaves and Wage Slaves”  pp.116-153 (37)

**Week 3**

1/24  Pateman: “The End of the Story?”  pp. 219-234


1/26  CR: Fraser: “Beyond the Master/Subject Model: On Carole Pateman’s The Sexual Contract” (7 pages)

CR: Allen: “Rethinking Power” (16 pages)  (23)


**Unit 2: Sexual Harassment**

**Week 4**

1/31  CR: Crouch, “Perspectives on Sexual Harassment”  pp. 8-21

CR: Crouch, “The Creation of the Concept of Sexual Harassment” pp. 30-36


2/2  MacKinnon, *Sexual Harassment of Working women*,  pp. 40-47

CR: Crouch, “Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment”  pp. 54-68

CR: “Academic Sexual Harassment”  pp. 69-84 (36)

2/3  Extra Session in planning:  CR: Forell, “What’s Wrong with Faculty-Student Sex?” (28 pages)CR: Taylor, “Disciplinary Relations/Sexual Relations: Feminist and Foucauldian Reflections on Professor-Student Sex” (18 pages); Guest lecture by Caroline Forell

**Week 5**

2/7  MacKinnon, *Sexual Harassment of Working Women*  pp. 101-142 (41)

2/9  CR: Davis, “The Problem that Has No Name: Street Harassment, Embodiment, and African American Women” (10)

CR: Welsh, Carr, McQuarrie and Huntley, “I’m not Thinking of It as Sexual Harassment: Understanding Harassment Across Race and Citizenship” (17) (27)
Week 6
2/14  MacKinnon, *Sexual Harassment of Working Women*, pp. 143-191
CR: Bordo, “The Sexual Harasser is a Bully not a Sex Fiend” (13)
CR: Crouch, “Philosophical Conceptions of Sexual Harassment” pp. 141-153 (73)
2/16  MacKinnon, *Sexual Harassment of Working Women* pp. 192-222
CR: Crouch, “Philosophical Conceptions of Sexual Harassment” pp. 154-174 (50)

Unit 3 Feminist Contentions
Week 7
2/21  CR: Benhabib, Butler and Fraser, *Feminist Contentions* pp. 17-74 (57)
Amy Allen will be a guest in our class today.

Week 8
2/28  Fraser, Butler, *Insult to Injury* pp. 9-68 (59)
3/1   Young, Fraser, *Insult to Injury* pp. 89-111; 129-141 (34)

Unit 4: Transnational Contexts: Feminism and “Cultural Difference”
Week 9
3/6   Intro Lecture: Crenshaw and Intersectionality
CR: Merry, “Culture and Transnationalism” from *Human Rights and Gender Violence: Translating International Law into Local Justice* pp. 1-28
Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures* pp. 3-39 (64)
3/8   Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures* pp. 41-81 (40)

Recommended: Mary Daly, “Introduction: The Metapatriarchal Journey of Exorcism and Ecstasy” and “Indian Suttee: The Ultimate Consummation of Marriage” (57) in *Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism*

Week 10
CR: Afary, “The War Against Feminism in the Name of the Almighty: Making Sense of Muslim Fundamentalism” (21) (35)

Finals Week: March 19-23