**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

**Philosophy 2077G: Gender and Sexuality – Kerry McKenzie**

**Syllabus**

***REVISED as of March 25th; readings on sexuality now finalized.***

**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. Topics include: expressions of gender, including femininities and masculinities; biological determinism and social construction of gender differences; challenges to binary models of sex/gender/sexuality; transgender politics; the moral and psychological dimensions of sexual orientations and practices; and social impacts of gender norms and representations.

**Course Objectives**:

1. To develop students’ abilities to make and critique philosophical arguments;
2. To familiarize students with some relevant debates in feminist / queer theory and the practical ethics of sexuality, and 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.

**REQUIREMENTS**

First essay, 6-7 pages (due Feb. 25) 32%

Second essay, 4-5 pages (due Mar. 20) 25%

Final exam 33%

10 in-class Reading Tests, each worth 1% 10%

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Articles** | **Author** |
| Jan. 6 | Introduction and the Sex / Gender Distinction | Chapter 1, ‘Debating Sex and Gender’  ‘Oppression’  (Optional) Except of ‘Science and Social Knowledge’ | Georgia Warnke  Marilyn Frye  Helen Longino |
| Jan. 13 | Sociobiology | Chapter 1, ‘Myths of Gender’  Chapter 3, ‘Delusions of Gender’ | Anne Fausto-Sterling  Cordelia Fine |
| Jan. 20 | Femininity | “Oppression” (re-read)  “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”  Chapter 3, ‘Ways of Seeing’ | Marilyn Frye  Sandra Bartky  John Berger |
| Jan. 27 | Masculinity | “Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame, and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity”  ‘Understanding Patriarchy’  ‘Dude, You’re a Fag’  ‘Men in Groups’ (optional) | Michael Kimmel  bell hooks  CJ Pascoe  May and Strickwerda |
| Feb. 3 | Natural vs Social Kinds  How to write a Philosophy Essay | Excerpts from `Resisting Reality’  Handout | Sally Haslanger |
| Feb. 10 | Intersexuality | Information sheet from American Psychological Association  “Defining and Producing Genitals” and “Lessons for the Intersexed”  **‘**Doing Justice to Someone’ | Suzanne Kessler  Judith Butler |
| Feb. 24  Essay Due Feb. 25 | Transsexuality 1:  Gender Dysphoria | Excerpts of ‘A Skin of One’s Own’  “Crossdressing: Demystifying Femininity and Rethinking ‘Male Privilege’” (up to section on ‘male privilege’)  “Gender as Illness: Issues of Psychiatric Classification”  Gender dysphoria fact sheet (optional)  “Psychology, Sexualization and Trans-Invalidations’ (optional)  ‘The Myth of Mental Illness’ (optional) | Jay Prosser  Julia Serano  Katherine K. Wilson  Julia Serano  Thomas Szasz |
| Mar. 3 | Transsexuality 2:  Transsexuality and Feminism | “Crossdressing: Demystifying Femininity and Rethinking ‘Male Privilege’” (section on ‘male privilege’)  ‘Unpacking Transphobia’  ‘Pantomime Dames’, chapter of *The Whole Woman*  ‘Trans-Sexualization’ (optional) | Julia Serano  Emma Allen  Germaine Greer  Julia Serano |
| Mar. 10 | Sex, Race and Privilege | “Dismantling Cissexual Privilege”  “Toward A New Vision: Race, Class and Gender as Categories of Analysis and Coalition”  Chapter 5 of *Feminist Theory: from Margin to Center* (‘Men: Comrades in Struggle’) (optional) | Julia Serano  Patricia Hill Collins  bell hooks |
| Mar. 17 | Introduction to Philosophy of Sexuality; Concepts of Sex and Sexuality | Female Sexual Alienation  ‘Are we having sex now or what?’ (optional)  ‘The Social Construction of Heterosexuality’ (optional)  ‘Sexuality, Pornography and Method: Pleasure under Patriarchy’ (optional) | Linda Phelps  Greta Christina  Pepper Schwartz  Catherine MacKinnon |
| Mar. 24  Essay Due 27th March | Objectification | ‘Sexual exploitation and the value of persons’  ‘Feminist perspectives on objectification’, Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry (optional)  ‘Fallacies of Anti-Porn feminism’ (for useful background to Kant) (optional) | Howard Klemmer  Evangelina Papadiki  Laurie Shrage |
| Mar. 31 | Perversion | ‘Sexual Perversion’  Experts of ‘Sex without Love’ | Thomas Nagel  Russell Vannoy |
| April 7  Final exam: April 22 2pm | Wrap-Up and Review | ‘  No readings  ; |  |