Instructor: Marianne Janack  
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Phone numbers: x4127 (office), 478-0803 (home; not before 9 a.m. or after 10 p.m., though, please)  
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Course description:

This course is an investigation of the various intersections of ‘philosophy’ as a discipline and ‘feminism’ as a political program. The meaning of both those terms ‘philosophy’ and ‘feminism’ will be part of the inquiry, since neither term is self-explanatory or univocal. In fact the very possibility of something like ‘feminist philosophy’ calls into question a number of assumptions about both what philosophy as a discipline is or should be, and what ‘feminism’ is and how theory can be political.

We will begin with ‘canonical’ philosophers who have, in their own ways, found their way into feminist discussions. We will ask what vision of philosophy they present, and how that vision connects to questions about gender and sex. We will eventually move through a number of different feminist philosophical positions, asking the following questions: How can philosophy accommodate or account for gender or sex? Are philosophical theories themselves neutral tools of inquiry, or do theories carry with them certain implicit assumptions that mean that no philosophical frame will be appropriate for feminist purposes unless it is explicitly developed to address those issues and purposes? Is one’s identity philosophically relevant?

Course requirements:

Class participation, reading and attendance:
Your major responsibility in this class is to do the reading thoroughly and to come to class ready to discuss it. This means that you should read carefully and critically, thinking about questions, issues, relationships that you see between this reading and other readings you’ve done in this class or in other classes you’ve taken.

Journal:
To further this goal, I want you to keep a journal in which you reflect on the readings for class. You should have 2 entries for each class day: 1 in which you reflect on the issues that you want to raise in class, questions that you have, your impressions of the reading. The second entry will reflect on class discussion, and should be done as soon after class as possible. In this entry, you should summarize the most important or interesting points raised in class, and how the questions that you raised were answered, or how your thinking about the issues changed, developed, etc. I would like you to assign yourself an evaluation for that class, using a 10 point scale, with 10=’I was a superior participant and discussant; I taught my classmates something’”, and 1=’I was there and awake’ and explain why you gave yourself that score. Journals are due on 7 May by 5 p.m.

Midterm Exam:
You will have a take-home midterm exam, which you will have a week to work on.

Final Paper
Your final paper will be on a topic of your own choosing, but you should consult with me about your topic choice. It should be 7-10 pages in length, but that is intended merely as a guideline, not as a maximum or minimum. It is due on 11 May by 5 p.m. You will be presenting your papers during the last week of class, and you will need to have a draft fit for public reading and
commentary by 2 May, which you will post to the course’s Blackboard site so that your classmates and I can read it before your presentation.

Your final grade will be calculated on the basis of the following:
Class participation: 30%
Journal: 30%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Paper: 20%

Texts:
Mary Daly, *Gyn/Ecology*
There will also be a number of electronic reserve readings.