

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2008-2009

**Philosophy 4992G (001): Problems in Philosophy—GENDER & RACE**  
Winter 2009

<b>Instructor:</b> Professor Carolyn McLeod	<b>Office Hours:</b> M 12:30-1:30, TH 2:30-3:30
<b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:cmcleod2@uwo.ca">cmcleod2@uwo.ca</a>	<b>Class Times:</b> W 2:30-5:30
<b>Phone:</b> (519) 661-2111 ext. 85877	<b>Class Location:</b> TC 305
<b>Office Location:</b> TC 410	<b>Course website:</b> webCT Owl

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The course deals with various types of philosophical questions about gender and race. One example is the metaphysical question of what gender and race are. Are they natural kinds or social kinds? If we assume the latter (i.e., that they are socially constructed), then we can ask the political question of whether a just world would have gender and race in it. We will indeed pose this question, along with others in political philosophy, especially those that concern the nature of sexism and racism and how or whether to make reparations for gender and racial injustices that occurred in the distant past. Questions in philosophical moral psychology that will concern us include questions about the nature of gender and racial identities and the moral psychological effects of racism and sexism. Lastly, we will examine questions in applied ethics about selecting offspring based on gender or race. Our goals will be to analyse all of these questions carefully and to consider how answers to them may differ depending on whether we are talking about gender or race.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To develop students' ability to answer critically and autonomously the questions posed in this course;
- 2) To encourage understanding of the difficulty of these questions;
- 3) To promote awareness of the need to be consistent in answering them.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** available as pdfs from our webCT site. The reading schedule and all of the readings will be posted by mid-to-late December. Please read what is assigned for the first class before that class.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- 1) Two essays—choose one of the following options:
  - a. Two medium-length essays (8-10 pages), each worth 40%; or
  - b. One medium-length essay (8-10 pages), worth 30%, and then a longer essay (15 pages) that is a revised and expanded version of the first essay and that is worth 50%.
- 2) Discussion questions—post and present 6 questions throughout the term, to be used as vehicles for class discussion, and worth 10%.
- 3) Participation, worth 10%.

*Please note that regular attendance throughout the term is expected.*

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

All written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*. Also, late papers will be penalized 3 percentage points per day late.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

*On e-mail:* please do not e-mail the instructor with substantive questions about course content. Instead, ask your questions in person in her office.

*On computers in class:* students' ability to use their own computers in class is a privilege that the instructor can take away. Checking e-mail or surfing the web during class is completely off limits.

**AUDIT:**

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

Incompletes are granted at the <i>exclusive</i> discretion of the Undergraduate Program Chair, and only on the basis of documented medical or compassionate grounds. If, during the course, you envisage any difficulty completing all the required work by the completion deadline, consult immediately with the instructor <i>and</i> the Undergraduate Program Chair.
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**THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Prerequisite(s): 3rd or 4th year honors standing in philosophy, or permission of the department.

Antirequisite: none

## READING SCHEDULE

\*All readings are available as pdfs on our webCT site

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan. 7	What is Gender? (Essentialism)	Kant, "Of the Distinction of the Beautiful and the Sublime in the Interrelations of the Two Sexes"; and "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse"  De Beauvoir, <i>The Second Sex</i> , Introduction	
Jan. 14	What is Gender? (Anti-Essentialism)	Spelman, <i>Inessential Woman</i> , chapter 6.  Butler, <i>Gender Trouble</i> , chapter 1.  Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough"	
Jan. 21	What is Race? (Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism)	Hume, "Of the Populousness of Ancient Nations," and "Of National Characters"  Kant, "On the Different Races of Man"  Appiah, "Race, Culture, Identity: Misunderstood Connections, Part I"	
Jan. 28	What is Race? (Anti-Essentialism)	Zack, <i>Philosophy of Science and Race</i> , chapters 4, 5, 6	
Feb. 4	What are Gender and Race?	Haslanger, "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?"  Root, "How We Divide the World"	

Feb. 6	Sally Haslanger's Visit to the Department		
Feb. 11	Future Genders, Future Races	<p>Serano, <i>Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity</i>, Introduction and chapter 19</p> <p>Outlaw, "On Race and Philosophy"</p> <p>Appiah, "Race, Culture, Identity: Misunderstood Connections, Part II"</p>	
Feb. 25	Future Genders, Future Races	<p>Alcoff, <i>Visible Identities</i>, chapters 10 &amp; 12.</p> <p>Haslanger, "Future Genders, Future Races"</p>	
March 4	Sexism and Racism	<p>Frye, "Sexism"</p> <p>Garcia, "Three Sites for Racism: Social Structures, Valuing, and Vice"</p> <p>Haslanger, "Oppressions: Racial and Other"</p>	<b>First essay due</b>
March 11	Sexism and Racism	<p>Thomas, "Sexism and Racism: Some Conceptual Differences"; "Power, Trust, and Evil"; and "Moral Deference"</p>	
March 18	Reparations for Gender or Racial Injustice: Guest lecture by Prof. Klimchuk	TBA	
March 25	Gender or Race Selection in Offspring	<p>Robertson, "Preconception Gender Selection"</p> <p>Seavilleklein and Sherwin,</p>	

		<p>“The Myth of the Gendered Chromosome: Sex Selection and the Social Interest”</p> <p>Fogg-Davis, “Navigating Race in the Market for Human Gametes”</p>	
April 1	Gender or Race Selection in Offspring	<p>Bartholet, “Abuse and Neglect, Foster Drift, and the Adoption Alternative”</p> <p>Roberts, “Feminism, Race, and Adoption Policy”</p> <p>Haslanger, “You Mixed? Racial Identity without Racial Biology”</p>	
April 8	Potluck	None	
April 10			<b>Second essay due</b>

### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF READINGS

Alcoff, Linda Martin. *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Appiah, K. Anthony. “Race, Culture, Identity: Misunderstood Connections, Part I & II.” In *Color Conscious: The Political Morality of Race*. K. A. Appiah & A. Gutmann. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996: 30-105.

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Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge, 2006.

de Beauvoir, Simone. “Introduction from *The Second Sex*.” In *Feminist Theory: A Philosophical Anthology*. Ed. A. Cudd & R. Andreasen. Malden, MA: Blackwell 2005. 27-36.

Eze, Emmanuel Chukwudi, ed. *Race and the Enlightenment Reader*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1997.

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Frye, "Sexism." In her *Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory*. Berkeley, CA: Crossing Press, 1983.

Garcia, "Three Sites for Racism: Social Structures, Valuings, and Vice." In *Racism, Philosophy and Mind* (see Levine): 35-55.

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---. "You Mixed? Racial Identity without Racial Biology." In *Adoption Matters*: 265-289.

---, and Charlotte Witt, eds. *Adoption Matters: Philosophical and Feminist Essays*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005.

Hume, David. "Of the Populousness of Ancient Nations," and "Of National Characters." In *Race and the Enlightenment Reader* (see Eze): 29-33.

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---. "Duties toward the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse." In his *Lectures on Ethics*. Trans. L. Infield. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1963.

---. "On the Different Races of Man." In *Race and the Enlightenment Reader* (see Eze): 38-48.

Levine, Michael P., and Tamas Pataki, eds. *Racism, Philosophy and Mind*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004.

Outlaw Jr., Lucius T. "On Race and Philosophy." In *Racism and Philosophy*. Ed. S. E. Babbitt and S. Campbell. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999: 50-75.

Roberts, Dorothy. "Feminism, Race, and Adoption Policy." In *Adoption Matters* (see Haslanger 2005): 234-246.

Robertson, John. "Preconception Gender Selection," *American Journal of Bioethics* 1(1), 2001: 2-9.

Root, Michael. "How We Divide the World," *Philosophy of Science* 67 (Proceedings), 2000: S628-S639.

Seavilleklein, Victoria, and Susan Sherwin, "The Myth of the Gendered Chromosome: Sex Selection and the Social Interest," *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 16, 2007: 7-19.

Serano, Julia. *Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity*. Emeryville, CA: Seal Press, 2007.

Spelman, Elizabeth. *Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought*. Boston, MA: Beacon, 1988.

Thomas, Laurence Mordekhai. "Sexism and Racism: Some Conceptual Differences," *Ethics* 90(2), 1980: 239-250.

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---. "Moral Deference." In *Moral Issues in Global Perspective*. Ed. C. Koggel. Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 1999. 180-191.

Zack, Noami. *Philosophy of Science and Race*. New York: Routledge, 2002.