

Course Outline 2022-23

Grad Course Number: 9703A
Cross-listed with Undergrad Course Number: 4311F

The course focuses on the intersection between scientific knowledge and women. We consider the historical and sociological contexts that prevented women from accessing and producing scientific knowledge. We then discuss the questions at the center of the feminist reflection on science and the different perspectives produced in the feminist epistemologies.

Description


The narrative of the human pursuit of knowledge has traditionally excluded the voices that were not in power. In this course, we will focus on scientific and technical knowledge and on women. This is a rich case that gives us instruments to recognize the importance of diversity in

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Learning Outcomes

No special background is required for the enrolment in this course. This course satisfies the requirements for a course in Philosophy of Science as well as Feminist Philosophy.

Course Schedule



| Week | Dates | Topic |
|------|---------|---|
| 1 | Sept 8 | Data on Women in Science |
| 2 | Sept 15 | The Science of Difference |
| 3 | Sept 22 | Prejudices and Unconscious Bias |
| 4 | Sept 29 | Spaces of Science, Spaces of Women |
| 5 | Oct 6 | (Feminist Science Fiction |
| 6 | Oct 13 | Is there a feminist science? |
| 7 | Oct 20 | Philosophy of Science (a feminist introduction) |
| 8 | Oct 27 | Standpoint Epistemologies |
| | Nov 3 | Reading Week |
| 9 | Nov 10 | Value Theory |
| 10 | Nov 17 | Feminist Empiricism |
| 11 | Nov 24 | Neo-materialism |
| 12 | Dec 1 | Student Presentations |

Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Online participation and engagements

Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible. The course is in presence, with classroom discussions, supplemented by online material and an online participation. The participation in the online forums with peers and instructors is an integral part of the course and part of the evaluation will be based on it.

Course website

The course has an online website that can be accessed through the OWL platform. It's the student's responsibility to regularly check the OWL website for course material and the discussion forum. The main functions we will use on OWL site are:

- Course Readings: where you will be redirected to all course readings
- Dropbox: to share material with the instructor and with other students
- Forums: where weekly online discussions will take place throughout the course
- Messages: use the OWL email system to contact the instructor and your classmates
- Resources: for most of the supplemental materials

Perusall

An online course website is set on the app Perusall:

- You need to create an account (for free) on <https://app.perusall.com/>
- To enrol in the course, use the course code: VIDOTTO-3AZ27
- Please use your email @uwo.ca and your student number as "student ID".

It is the student responsibility to check the website and comply with the deadlines posted there for the assignments.

Communication

- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours

Office Hours

Audit

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

Professionalism & Privacy

Reccomandations

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

- Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
- Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
- Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
- Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
- Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
- Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).

Western Academic Policies and Statements

Department of Philosophy Policies

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://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Reading list ~

Week 2 - The science of difference

1. Tuana, N. (1988). [The weaker seed: The sexist bias of reproductive theory](#). *Hypatia*, 3(1), 35-59.
2. Martin, E. (1991). [The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles](#). *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 16(31), 485-501.
3. Richardson, S. (2012).

Week 4 - Spaces of Science, Spaces of Women

1. Ginzberg, R., Lang, R., & Guttmacher, A. (1987). [Uncovering gynocentric science](#). *Hypatia*, 2(3), 89-105.
2. Schiebinger, L. (1991). [Women in Science: Historical perspective](#).
3. Schiebinger, L. (1991). [Institutional environment. The mind has no sex? Women in the origins of modern science](#) (pp. 10-36). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
4. Davis, R. (2018). [Women Scribes: The Technologists of the Middle Ages](#).
5. Popova, M. (2016). [The Glass Universe: The untold story of the trailblazing women scientists and patrons who catalogued the stars and helped prove that the universe is expanding](#).

Optional/Recommended:

Try to read as many as possibly files from: [Women in Science \(biographies\)](#)

Try to watch one of these movies: [Enigma\(2011\)](#) and/or [Hidden Figures \(2017\)](#)

Read the full first four chapters of Schiebinger, L. (1991). [The mind has no sex? . Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press](#).

Week 5 - Is there a Feminist Science?

1. Schiebinger, L. (2000). [Has feminism changed science?](#) *Signs*, 25(4), 1171-1175.
2. Schiebinger, L. (2003). [Introduction: Feminism in the Sciences](#). *Signs*, 28(3), 859-866.
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2. Longino, H. "Subjects, Power, and Knowledge: Description and Prescription in Feminist Philosophies of Science". In *Feminist Epistemologies*, Linda Alcoff and Elizabeth Potter (eds.), pp. 101-120.*
3. Lacey, Hugh. *Is Science Value Free?*

1. Barad, K. (2003) [Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter](#), Signs Vol. 28, No. 3, Gender and Science: New Issues (pp. 801-831)
2. Fraser, Nancy and Linda Nicholson, 1990, "[Social Criticism without Philosophy](#)," in Nicholson 1990.
3. Iris van der Tuin (2019) [New Concepts for Materialism: Introduction](#)
4. Fricker, M., "Feminism in epistemology: Pluralism without postmodernism"
5. Coole, D. and Frost, S. (2010) "[Introducing the New Materialism](#)" in New Materialism. Ontology, Agency and Politics, Duke University Press.

Optional/Recommended

Barad, K. (2007) [Meeting the universe halfway: quantum physics and the entanglement of matter and meaning](#), Chapter 4, Durham : Duke University Press.

Hekman, S. (1992) [Gender and Knowledge. Elements of a Postmodern feminism](#). Chap.1 and Chap.4, Northeastern University Press, Boston.

Rick Dolphijn and Iris van der Tuin (2018) [New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies](#)

Jennifer Mae Hamilton, Susan Reid, Pia van Gelder and Astrida Neimanis (2018) [Feminist, Queer, Anticolonial Propositions for Hacking the Anthropocene: Archive](#)

Smith, B. H. (2018) [Practicing Relativism in the Anthropocene: On Science, Belief, and the Humanities](#)

Extra Class - **Feminist Science Fiction**