

**Feminist Philosophy, (Phil: 035-B1; 23376) or (WS: 035-B1; 23506)**

**Spring 2012**

**Class: Wednesday 6:30-9:20pm; BCC032**

Instructor: Shawn C. Doubiago (sdoubiago@peralta.edu)

Office hours and office: 4:30-5:30 Wednesday, BCC555

T.A. Jenny Vilchez: [jennifer.vilchez@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.vilchez@gmail.com)

**Reading List**

*A Room of One's Own*, by Virginia Woolf (Harcourt Brace and Co., 1929).

**Course Reader** available at Laser Image Printing located at 61, Shattuck Square, Berkeley, (510) 644-3339

Occasional handouts given by instructor

**Films**

Sally Potter: *Orlando*, 1992

Ridley Scott: *Thelma and Louise*, 1992

Mohsen Makhmalbaf : *Kandahar*, 2001

Lynn Hershman Leeson: *!Women Art Revolution*, 2010

**Course Overview**

In this introductory course on feminist philosophy we will study the historical background of feminist thought as well as study and compare the aims of various types of feminism (radical, socialist, liberal, psychoanalytic, French, cultural, global, "Third Wave," eco-feminism, etc.). We will investigate the nature of women's oppression through political, legal, cultural and social structures and attempt to explain the causes and consequences of this oppression in relation to women's various struggles to free themselves of this oppression. We will cover issues such as family and home, education, work, sexuality, culture, art, beauty, pornography, and many other issues.

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment of Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

- Define feminist theoretical terms
- Analyze theoretical approaches to feminist movements
- Describe feminist views in a global setting
- Analyze personal experiences with gender inequality

**Required Assignments and Grading**

<u>Two Reading Responses</u> (out of a possible Three)	20%
Reading Response #1 (required)	
Reading Response #2 and #3 (one of these*)	
<u>Personal Bibliographical Archive</u> (student presentation)	15%
<u>Midterm exam</u>	20%
<u>Final exam</u>	20%
<u>Class participation</u> : (including in-class quizzes, writing and homework assignments based on content of required reading and occasional film screenings--no make-up	25%

quizzes, **under any circumstances**) All out-of-class assignments must be word processed or typewritten—more information will be given out later in the semester.

### **Deadlines**

Homework and out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of the class period.

Late homework and assignments will only be excused in cases of well-documented emergencies; in addition, students must have evidence that substantial progress has been made on the assignment before the emergency took place. Otherwise, late assignments will be downgraded half a letter grade for each day they are late.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is recommended and constitutes part of your participation grade. I take attendance every class. It is your responsibility to arrive at class on-time, with the correct materials, and having done all reading and writing assignments for the day. You are also required to participate in class discussions and group work. Failure to participate is equal to not being present in the classroom. You must be on time and stay the length of class to be given credit for attending.

**Lateness:** Class begins at 6:30pm. Please be prompt. If you are more than ten minutes late for class you will receive a half-absence.

If you are late or miss a class for whatever reason you are still responsible for everything that went on in class or handouts given while you were not present.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism means submitting someone else's work (words or ideas) as your own. Plagiarism is strictly forbidden (obviously!). Should you plagiarize, Berkeley City College regulations require that the assignment be given the grade of “F” regardless of intent; repeat offenders will be subject to college disciplinary action. Plagiarism is not difficult to detect: it is therefore easier to write your own essay than to suffer the consequences of plagiarism. Students are encouraged to review plagiarism policies in the current Vista College catalog.

### **Class content**

Many of the ideas we will consider deal openly with adult themes, situations, and language. If you are concerned that some of the readings and discussions could offend you, see me immediately so that we can discuss the content and your concerns! If you stay in this class after the second week then you are agreeing that the materials and ideas we read and consider in this class are acceptable and that you can undertake their study with diligence and enthusiasm.

***Berkeley City College is committed to equal opportunity in education. In particular, if you have a disability and require particular assistance or materials, please do not hesitate to inform the instructor during the first week of class. DSP&S (Disabled Student Program and Services) are provided for any enrolled student who has a verified disability.***

## **Reading/Assignment Schedule (complete by dates listed here).**

Schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Week 1:**

Jan. 25: Introduction to Course: Syllabus; explanation of workload and assignments.  
History of myth of woman and philosophical views (Genesis, Hesiod, Plato, Aristotle).

### **Week 2**

Feb. 1: Sappho's poetry (handouts); Cornelia Tsakiridou, "Philosophy Abandons Woman: Gender, Orality, and Some Literate Pre-Socratics."

### **Week 3**

Feb. 8: Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*;  
John Stuart Mill, from *The Subjection of Woman*.

### **Week 4**

Feb. 15: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, pages 3-78

### **Week 5**

Feb. 22: Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*, pages 79-114; Screening of *Orlando*; **Personal Bibliographical Archive due at beginning of class.**

### **Week 6**

Feb. 29 : Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*: "Introduction;" and "Conclusion" \*; Simone de Beauvoir, "Interview"\* Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa."\*

### **Week 7**

Mar. 7: John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*, Chapter 3 Screening of: *!Women Art Revolution*; **Reading response #1 due.**

### **Week 8**

Mar. 14: Irigaray, from "This Sex Which is Not One"\*; "The Question of the Other."; Audre Lourd, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House."\* **Take Home Midterm exam handed out.**

### **Week 9**

Mar. 21: **Take home exam due at beginning of class**; Nawal El Saadawi, "Preface" to English edition of *The Hidden Face of Eve*; Nawal El Saadawi, excerpts from *The Hidden Face of Eve*.

### **Week 10**

Mar.28: Assia Djebar, "Hidden Gaze, Severed Sound."  
Marilyn Frye, "Opression;" *Kandahar*, by Mohsen Makhmalbaf (81 min.)

**Week 11**

Apr. 4: **Spring Break:**

**Week 12**

Apr. 11: Anzaldua, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue" and "Towards a New Consciousness"  
Trinh, Minh-ha, "Grandma's Story."

**Week 13**

Apr. 18: bell hooks, "Feminism, a Transformational Politic." Angela Davis, "Outcast Mothers and Surrogates: Racism and Reproductive Politics in the Nineties"; **Reading Response # 2 due** (You can choose to do #2 or #3).

**Week 14**

Apr. 25: Andrea Dworkin, "Israel: Whose Country is it Anyway?"; Sandra Harding, "Rethinking Standpoint Epistemology."

**Week 15**

May 2: Sally Haslanger, "Gender and Race."  
Kaplan/Grewal: "Transnational Feminist Cultural Studies: Beyond Marxism/  
Postructuralism/Feminism Divides."

**Week 16**

May 9: Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution," from *Performing Feminisms*, 1990; Saba Mahmood, "The Subject of Freedom," from *The Politics of Piety\**; Review for Final exam **Reading Response #3 due.**

**Week 17**

May 16: **Final Exam**