Philosophy 297/WGS 297
Philosophy of Feminism

Fall 2024
TR 2pm-3:20pm
Lyman Hall 115B

Instructor: Professor Neelam Sethi
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Office hours: TBA

Course Description:
The aim of this course is to introduce students to the issues that emerge at the intersection of feminism and philosophy. The lectures and class discussions will attempt to answer several questions: What is oppression? What are the sources of oppression? How are different forms of oppression related? How can we end oppression? We will also discuss other central issues that concern feminists, including gender, patriarchy, misogyny, intersectionality, sexuality, reproduction, pornography, and work.

Learning outcomes: This course aims to help you
- obtain an understanding of the core concepts and concerns of feminist philosophy
- develop the ability to analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments
- develop the ability to formulate your own ideas into coherent arguments
- develop the ability to write an argumentative paper

Required Texts:
Kate Manne, *Down Girl* (Oxford University Press, 2017)
This book is available at the Syracuse University bookstore in the Schine Center.
All other readings will be available on the class blackboard.

Contacting me: I am available to meet with you during my office hours. If that time slot does not work for you, please email me to make an appointment. If you need to contact me regarding any class related matter, email me; if you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, write again to remind me.

Course Requirements:
1. In-class Writing x 6 (30 % of the grade). You will be expected to analyze a passage from the reading for a given day. Details TBA

2. In-class midterm on 10/10 (20 % of the grade) **and final on 12/05** (20% of the grade) Details TBA

3. **A final writing assignment due 12/10** (10% of the grade) Details TBA

4. Regular attendance and class participation (20% of the grade): You may miss three classes over the course of the semester without having to provide any explanation. Additional absences will be excused only in cases of sickness (you must provide a doctor's note), death in the family, religious observation, or an athletic meeting (you must provide an official note). Unexcused absences will have a negative impact on your attendance and participation grade.

5. Students must complete ALL assignments. Any missing assignment will result in failing the class.

6. All work submitted must be your own. Failure to cite sources used will count as plagiarism and will result in disciplinary action. Cite all your sources including class readings, lectures, slides, websites, videos, Twitter etc. When in doubt, provide references. The Syracuse Code of Academic Integrity can be reviewed online at https://policies.syr.edu/policies/academic-rules-student-responsibilities-and-services/academic-integrity-policy/.

Use of Chatgpt for any assignment will result in a failing grade.

"All generative-AI tools are prohibited in this course because their use inhibits achievement of the course learning objectives. This policy applies to all stages of project and writing processes including researching, brainstorming, outlining, organizing, and polishing. Do not use Generative-AI tools to create any content (i.e., images and video, audio, text, code, etc.). If you have any questions about a feature and whether it is considered Generative-AI, ask your instructor."

Please talk or write to me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

7. Contacting me: E-mail is the best way to contact me regarding general questions, but if you have questions about readings or lecture, please raise them in class or during office hours. I generally respond to e-mail in a timely manner, but if you do not get a response to your e-mail within 24 hours, please re-send it.

8. Accommodations: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities that require accommodations, please let me know by the end of this Thursday so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office that can be reached at 315-443-4498

9. Laptop/cell phone policy: I will follow a very strict policy regarding the use of laptops, cell phones, iPads, Kindles, iPods, and the like. Please switch off your cell phone for the duration of the class. Laptop or iPad use will NOT be allowed except for students registered with Disability Services.

10. All information regarding class assignments, readings (or any changes made thereof) and any other related topic will be made available on the class blackboard available to all enrolled students. Please contact me if you have any questions about assignments or readings. **Original class materials (handouts, assignments, tests, etc.) are the intellectual property of the course instructor. You may download these materials for your use in this class. However, you may not provide these materials to other parties (e.g., web sites, social media, other students) without permission. Doing so is a violation of intellectual property law and of the student code of conduct.**

11. Please note that many of the topics that we will discuss in class are sensitive and often controversial, and some of you may find them offensive. To ensure that we do not hurt the sentiments of others who view these issues differently, use language that is both respectful and inclusive. In case you find some of the issues overly offensive, please contact me with your concerns.