



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

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Office Hours: Wed 10-11:30am

Philosophy 499.3
Topics in Philosophy

Philosophy of Race and Gender

Winter Term 2018
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30
@ Science A 119

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages with various topics in the epistemology and metaphysics of race and gender, including: realist, historicist and social constructionist theories, essentialism and anti-essentialism, and intersectionality.

The course employs an exciting approach to learning called Reacting to the Past. Reacting courses include elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by historical texts. In this class, you will learn to construct arguments from these texts and then support your positions through reasoned, sometimes impassioned, writing and speeches. As you take control of an unfolding historical drama and struggle for your characters to prevail, you will become deeply engaged, both intellectually and emotionally, with the subject matter. For this portion of the class I will act as the gamemaster, determining your roles, preparing you to play, grading your work, and occasionally nudging the games as they develop.

PREREQUISITES: Two previous courses in Philosophy, at least one of which is at the 300 level.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students in this class shall:

- explore contesting interpretations of race and gender; including realist, historicist and social constructionist theories, essentialism and anti-essentialism, and intersectionality.
- understand how inextricably linked slavery was to beliefs, and practices with regard to race;
- understand the relationship between the abolitionist and suffrage movements, and the similarities and differences in their understanding of race and gender circa 1845;
- understand the ways in which 19th century interpretations of race and gender continue to inform contemporary views;
- experience both teamwork and competition with their classmates; and
- improve their skills in persuasive communication, with written and spoken work.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTS

All readings will be made available via the D2L site for the course. A schedule of topics and reading assignments will be provided during the first week of classes.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Your mark will **not** be determined by the weighted average of the grades you receive on each assignment. Instead, your grade will be determined by what tasks you successfully complete as outlined

in the table below. I will be careful to describe exactly what you need to do successfully complete each task. As a general rule a successful completion of a task demonstrates a largely correct understanding of the material and a competence in thinking critically about it. This grading system allows you as a student much more choice and is closer to the kinds of experiences found outside of school. This system is more rigorous than traditional grading and builds on well-documented links between high expectations and student success. It creates a safe but challenging environment in which you will thrive, because almost all assignments are assessed pass/fail, and the requirements for a pass are always clearly delineated. It will be easy for you to tell whether your work is complete, done in good faith, and consistent with my expectations and the intended learning outcome.

ASSIGNMENTS

Speaking to Connect

Workshop Two meetings of the class will be devoted to a speaking skills workshop. . (Dates for this will be announced as soon as the Bystander Intervention Training dates are confirmed.)

Graded Complete/Incomplete.

Peer Feedback As a follow-up, students will complete feedback forms for other members of the class providing constructive feedback on their speaking skills. *Graded Complete/Incomplete.* **Due April 3rd**

Bystander Intervention Training

Training Two meetings of the class will be devoted to a bystander intervention training session offered under the UCalgary Strong Initiative. (Dates for this will be announced as soon as confirmed by Leadership and Student Engagement) *Graded Complete/Incomplete.*

Reflection A short guided reflection on the Bystander Intervention sessions. *Graded Exceeds Expectations/Meets Expectations/Unsatisfactory.* **Due February 15th**

Note: Students who must unavoidably miss the classes for which the Speaking Skills Workshop or Bystander Intervention Training are scheduled should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Reacting to the Past: Frederick Douglass (February 27th – March 29th)

Pre-game quiz assessing basic comprehension of Douglass’s narrative. Completed open-book on D2L. Students must achieve a grade of at least 75% to pass before **February 26th**. Students will be able to attempt the quiz an unlimited amount of times between February 1st and the 26th.

Active Participation in the game via impromptu speaking during meetings and/or behind the scenes work advancing your characters agenda. *Graded Exceeds Expectations/Meets Expectations/Unsatisfactory*

Meeting Assignments For each of the three “meetings” which constitute the game students will have an opportunity to prepare a formal speech, a publication addressing other characters, and/or a “Broadside” (a kind of promotional poster). *Graded Exceeds Expectations/Meets Expectations/Unsatisfactory.* Each “meeting” will have three classroom days assigned to it – your assignment may be submitted on any of these days.

Term paper A standard philosophical paper addressing conceptions of race and/or gender as discussed during the course of the class. This will be graded using the standard letter grade scale as given in the University Calendar. **Due April 20th**

			Term Paper with a grade of B+ or better
		1 Speaking to Connect Follow-up	2 Speaking to Connect Follow-ups
	Bystander Intervention Training Reflection	Bystander Intervention Training Reflection	Bystander Intervention Training Reflection
Bystander Intervention Training	Bystander Intervention Training	Bystander Intervention Training	Bystander Intervention Training
Speaking to Connect Workshop	Speaking to Connect Workshop	Speaking to Connect Workshop	Speaking to Connect Workshop
Douglass: One Meeting Assignment	Douglass: Two Meeting Assignments for two different meetings	Douglass: Three Meeting Assignments for three different meetings	Douglass: Four Meeting Assignments for three different meetings
Douglass: Active Participation	Douglass: Active Participation	Douglass: Active Participation	Douglass: Active Participation
Douglass: pre-game quiz	Douglass pre-game quiz	Douglass pre-game quiz	Douglass pre-game quiz
D	C-	B-	A-

As indicated on the table, students who meet the minimum requirements for the grade level will receive the Minus version of the grade (except in the case of the D range, since there is no D-). D+, C, B, and A will be awarded to students who exceed the minimum requirements for the relevant grade level in at least two areas, either by completing more than the minimum requirement (e.g. an extra meeting assignment or speaking follow-up) or by producing work in that area that receives the *exceeds expectations* evaluation. C+, B+, and A+ grades will be awarded to students who exceed the minimum requirements in at least three areas. In the case of the A-range a grade above A- on the term paper can also positively impact your overall grade in the class.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (ifantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca , arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>