RACE AND GENDER

PHIL 601.99 Lecture 01
Seminar in Selected Problems
Winter 2021

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

Instructor Name: Dr. Nicole Wyatt
Email: nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca (Indicate PHIL 601 in the topic).
    Emails should be used for those matters that require confidentiality—please post questions
    regarding class content or those of general interest to the appropriate D2L message board.
To book a phone or zoom appointment: calendly.com/nicole-wyatt

COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION
This class is concurrently scheduled with Philosophy 499, which meets on Zoom each Tuesday from
11am-12:15pm. Students will also have access to all the asynchronous learning activities for this class—
see the course activities section below and the D2L site for more information.

In addition, students in 601 will meet separately with the instructor via Zoom for 75 minutes a week (time
TBA).

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Our concern in this course will be with the metaphysics of race and gender. Do races and genders exist? If
so, what kind of thing are they? We will consider a variety of answers to these questions, including
various versions of essentialist, social constructionist, and error theories. We will also look at the
historical development of these views as well as their ongoing political impact.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Deep knowledge of essentialist, social constructivist, and error theories with respect to race
  and gender.
- Robust understanding of the standard arguments for and against these positions.
- An understanding of the historical origins of our ideas of race and gender.
- An understanding of the ways in which these ideas impact on policy and political viewpoints.
- Ability to explain these issues to a non-specialist audience.
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written discussion.

PREREQUISITE(S): Two previous courses in Philosophy, at least one of which is at the 300 level.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

There are two textbooks for the class:

Dea, Shannon (2016). *Beyond the Binary: Thinking About Sex and Gender*. Broadview Press.
Glasgow, Joshua ; Haslanger, Sally ; Jeffers, Chike & Spencer, Quayshawn (2019). *What is Race?: Four
    Philosophical Views*. OUP USA.

Other readings will be provided via D2L.

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment in this class will be based on the following components:

Weekly questions: Each week, the day before the 601 only meeting, I'd like you to submit a question based on one of the readings for that meeting. The question you write should demonstrate that you've read the reading well enough to be at least confused by it. As my colleague David Dick points out, "confusion is a philosophical heuristic, it either helps you identify a place where you don't understand, or where the argument doesn't make sense. Either one of these counts as philosophical progress."

Weekly questions and their explanations/context should not generally be longer than 300 words. An example will be posted on D2L.

Over the 13 weeks of the term you need to submit 10 weekly questions. It's up to you which week, beyond the first, you wish to submit questions on. No extra credit will be given for questions beyond the ten.

Questions should be submitted to the Dropbox set up on D2L for this purpose.

Participation in discussion: You are expected to be an active contributor to the discussion in the graduate student only meeting each week. It is also expected that your contributions be respectful and constructive.

Briefing papers: Two briefing papers, one on gender and one on race, are required for this class. These papers should be approximately 1500 words, and should explain the standard range of answers to the questions "What is gender?" and "What is race?" in language accessible to a non-specialist.

Briefing papers will be graded pass/fail. Failing papers may be resubmitted until such time as they are judged a pass.

The initial submissions for both papers should be made by **noon on February 13th**. They may be made before that. More detailed instructions will be provided in the first week of classes.

The letter grade for the briefing papers portion of the final grade calculation will be determined as follows:
> 2 Passing Briefing Papers = A (4.0)
> 1 Passing Briefing Paper= B (3.0)
> 0 Passing Briefing Papers= F (0.0)

Term Paper: The term paper for this class is due on **April 25th at noon**. More detailed instructions on this paper will be provided after the winter break.

Students wishing instructor feedback on a draft paper should submit the draft by April 10th, and must book a meeting to discuss the draft with the instructor (written feedback will not be provided).

Academic Accommodations
It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

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: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments
Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources
Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising
If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support
The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology
In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).