

Course Description: Phil. 458 Advanced Social and Political Philosophy

CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORY

Winter, 1986. Tues. and Thurs. 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Room: Tory 1-5.

Dr. Lynda Lange  
Tel.: 432-4512

A course in political theory or philosophy which fully integrates questions for political philosophy.

The course will begin with an examination of some early modern philosophies (Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau) of the role of women in a properly constituted society. Most contemporary views that women have a special "place" or "role" in society, inferior to that of men, are the direct descendants of these philosophies.

Various contemporary feminist "schools of thought" will be discussed in relation to the modern tradition of political theory. These will include liberal feminism, Marxist feminism, radical feminism, and feminist socialism. In the process, there will be discussion of the basic frameworks of liberalism, Marxism, etc., as well as of feminist criticisms and contributions to each of these areas.

Feminist philosophy is a new and dynamic area which cannot avoid challenging and criticizing many important political and philosophical ideas. Active discussion of all the issues by the participants in the course, as well as a creative approach to written requirements, will be constantly encouraged.

REQUIREMENTS

Requirements will be written materials, such as essays, book reviews, discussion papers for the class, etc. Actual format will depend on the size of the class and their general background and expectations. A thorough discussion of requirements will be held in the first week of classes.

TEXTBOOKS, etc.: The main text for the course will be:

Alison M. Jaggar, FEMINIST POLITICS AND HUMAN NATURE. Rowman and Allanheld: Totawa, N.J., 1983. (408 pages)

It is hoped that this book will arrive in the bookstore before too long. In the meantime, it is in the U. of A. Library Reserve Room for those who would like to look at it.

Professor Jaggar will be here on campus as a Distinguished Visiting Speaker in March. While she is here, she will visit the class for two meetings.

A short selected bibliography in the area of feminist political theory will be provided. Other materials will be hand-outs, library materials, etc.

Selected Bibliography of Works Available in the U. of A. Library

- Clark, Lorraine M.G. and Lynda Lange, THE SEXISM OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY: WOMEN AND REPRODUCTION FROM PLATO TO NIETZSCHE. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1979)
- Eisenstein, Hester, CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THOUGHT. (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1983)
- Elshtain, Jean Bethke, PUBLIC MAN, PRIVATE WOMAN: WOMEN IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1981)
- \_\_\_\_\_, THE FAMILY IN POLITICAL THOUGHT. (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1982)
- Hartsock, Nancy, MONEY, SEX, AND POWER: TOWARDS A FEMINIST HISTORICAL MATERIALISM. (N.Y.: Longman, 1983)
- Keohane, Nannerl O., Michelle Z. Rosaldo, and Barbara Gelpi, FEMINIST THEORY: A CRITIQUE OF IDEOLOGY. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982)
- Jaggar, Alison M., FEMINIST POLITICS AND HUMAN NATURE. (Totawa, N.J.: Rowman and Allanheld, 1983)
- O'Brien, Mary, THE POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION. (Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1981)
- Okin, Susan Moller, WOMEN IN WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979)

Some Background, References, etc., also available in the U. of A. Library

- Agonito, Rosemary, HISTORY OF IDEAS ON WOMAN: A SOURCE BOOK. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1977)
- Lloyd, Genevieve, THE MAN OF REASON: "MALE" AND "FEMALE" IN WESTERN PHILOSOPHY. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984)
- Spender, Dale, FEMINIST THEORISTS: THREE CENTURIES OF WOMEN'S INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS. (London: The Women's Press, 1983)

RESOURCES FOR FEMINIST RESEARCH (a periodical)

WOMEN'S STUDIES ABSTRACTS (at the Index Table in the Reference Section)