



Syllabus

PHL 205 Philosophy, Sex, and Gender

General Information

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Department Humanities

Course Prefix PHL

Course Number 205

Course Title Philosophy, Sex, and Gender

Course Information

Catalog Description This course will study how concepts of sex and gender inform our understanding of self-identity and sexual difference. The course will explore how conventional categories of gender (e.g., heteronormativity and androcentrism) shape/situate women and sexual minorities as 'other'. The course examines a number of theories about the conceptual regulations of gender identity, especially those drawn from foundationalism and essentialism and feminist challenges to these theories. The course also explores the intelligibility of possibilities for gender identity other than those that are conventionally reinforced.

Credit Hours 3

Lecture Contact Hours 3

Lab Contact Hours 0

Other Contact Hours 0

Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

ENG 101 and PHL 101 or PHL 103

Co-requisites

None

First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course is designated as satisfying the outcomes applicable for status as a Capstone Course

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed categories

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 1, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 2, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 3, and Humanities

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Inquiry, Perseverance, and Interconnectedness

Course Learning Outcomes

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1. Identify how conventional categories of sex and gender (e.g. heteronormativity and androcentrism) inform, and reinforce conventional notions of self-identity.
2. Investigate and analyze how conventional categories of sex and gender (heteronormativity and androcentrism) inform/influence notions of self-identity by applying philosophical language and reasoning.
3. Analyze and critically examine a variety of theories and conceptual regulations of gender identity and feminist challenges to them by applying relevant philosophical language appropriate to gender studies.
4. Integrate and synthesize ideas from multiple perspectives with their own to present coherent oral and written discourse in a variety of formats about relevant philosophical concerns, issues, ideas, and values related to the concepts of sex, gender, and identity.
5. Apply philosophical analysis of concepts of sex and gender to identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments using sound reasoning, organizational logic, and compelling content.

Outline of Topics Covered

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I. Is Biology Destiny?

- A. Historical/Philosophical Interpretations of Relation of Biology to Gender**
- B. Ancient Greek Representations of Biology and Gender – Plato’s Myth of the Genders**
- C. Responses/Examinations of the Platonic Vision of Love and Genders**

II. Troubling Sex and Gender

- A. Second Wave Feminist Analyses of conventional categories
- B. Post-structuralist and Queer Theory discussions of sex and gender

III. Gender and the Political

- A. Rousseau and *Emile***
- B. Feminist Responses to Rousseau**
- C. Rethinking the Body and Androcentrism**

IV. Gender and Performance/Performativity

- A. Gender systems and gender regulations**
- B. Continuing dualisms and the role of neuroscience**
- C. Objectivity and the gendered subject/subjectivity**

V. The road forward for sex and gender ...

- A. Can we stop diagnosing gender?**
- B. Nonwestern perspectives on feminist epistemology/epistemologies**
- C. Queering Identity ...**