Feminist Philosophy (Philosophy 206) 

Course Description
This course explores various feminist theories, focusing on historical texts and contemporary readings. In the first half of the course, we examine what feminists have had to say about standards of sex and gender, oppression of women, and the ways that gender/sex intersects with other identities such as race. What are feminists’ aims? What do feminist disagree about? And how has feminist work influenced the way we understand our experiences as women? The second half of the course investigates feminist contributions to various philosophical subfields, such as ethics, political philosophy, and epistemology. Does gender/sex influence the way we think about morality? Our political obligations and relations? Our understanding of the world and our environment? The course offers an overview of feminism via engaging and challenging readings.

Learning Goals
By the end of this course, I hope that students will a) have a strong understanding of various feminist theories, b) be able to make connections between the content of the course and their own experiences, c) be able to coherently express their ideas about the course content in verbal and written form, and d) be able to accurately interpret and charitably engage with others’ ideas.

Required Texts
- Additional readings may be found online or on the course catalyst site.

Assignments and Grading:
1. Daily Reading Quizzes: There will be a five minute quiz at the beginning of each class that asks you to write one paragraph on a specific question about the reading due that day. The aim of the quizzes is to measure your understanding of the readings, serve as a “philosophical warm up,” and help guide our critical reflection during class. (15%)

2. Skills Exercises: Skills exercises provide students with an opportunity to practice the philosophical skills we will be learning. These will include assignments such as “outline the argument of a specific reading in premise/conclusion form,” “explain in one paragraph the significance of a particular reading,” “choose a reading from the previous week and explain in one paragraph how it relates to your daily experiences,” “attend a writing-center session to discuss one of your papers with a writing tutor.” (20%)

3. Three Short Papers (3-4 pages): You will be required to write three papers that exhibit several of the key philosophical skills that we will be practicing as well as coherently convey your thoughts and analysis of a particular question/issue/theory. We will discuss the writing guidelines and the rubric for the paper as the due date draws closer. A rough draft for each paper will be due two weeks before the final draft is due. (Each rough draft = 3%. First Paper = 10%. Second Paper =11%. Third Paper=15%)

4. Term paper: For the term paper (5-7 pages), you will choose one of the three short papers to revise and develop more fully. Though the term paper is an extension of one of the short papers, it is expected to look significantly different as you will have continuously reflected on the topic, gained more insight through further course readings, and gathered much feedback from fellow students, outside writing resources, and myself. (20%)
Reading List

Introduction: What is Philosophy? Feminist Philosophy?
Kristie Dotson. Concrete Flowers: Contemplating the Profession of Philosophy (on catalyst)
John Dewey. Experience and the Philosophical Method (on catalyst)
Sally Haslanger and Nancy Tuana. Topics in Feminism (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
Nancy Tuana. Approaches to Feminism (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Section I: Sex and Gender
Simone de Beauvoir. Introduction to The Second Sex
bell hooks. Reconstructing Black Masculinity
Anne Fausto-Sterling. Should there only be two sexes?
Judith Halberstam. Transgender Butch
Oyewumi Oyeronke. Visualizing the Body: Western Theories and African Subjects

Section II: Oppression and Resistance
Gayle Rubin. The Traffic in Women: Notes on The Political Economy of Sex
Marilyn Frye. Oppression
Audre Lorde. The Master's Tools Cannot Dismantle The Master's House.
Sandra Bartky. On Psychological Oppression
Peggy McIntosh. White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies.
Maria Lugones. Playfulness, 'World' Traveling, and Loving Perception

Section III: Intersectionality
Elizabeth Spelman. Gender and Race: The Ampersand Problem in Feminist Thought
Kimberle Crenshaw. Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color
American Anthropological Association. Statement on 'Race'
Annette Jamies. Some Kind of Indian
Maria Lugones. Purity, Impurity and Separation
Alison Bailey. Locating Traitorous Identities: Towards a Theory of White Character Formation

Section IV: Feminist Ethical Theories
Carol Gilligan. Moral Orientation and Moral Development
Seyla Benhabib. The Generalized And The Concrete Other: The Kohlberg-Gilligan Controversy and Moral Theory
Virginia Held. Taking Care: Care as Practice And Value
Kelly Oliver. Conflicted Love
Sarah Hoagland. Separating from Heterosexualism
Margaret Urban Walker. Seeing Power in Morality: A Proposal for Feminist Naturalism in Ethics
Claudia Card. The Moral Powers of Victims

Section V: Feminist Political Philosophies
Marilyn Friedman. Autonomy, Social Disruption and Women
Eva Kittay. Taking Dependency Seriously: The Family Medical Leave Act Considered in Light of The Social Organization of Dependency Work and Gender Equality
Susan Okin. Vulnerability by Marriage
Nancy Fraser. After The Family Wage: Gender Equity And The Welfare State
Iris Marion Young. *Difference and Social Policy: Reflections in The Context of Social Movements*
Cynthia Enloe. *Updating The Gendered Empire: Where Are The Women in Occupied Afghanistan and Iraq?*

Section VI: Feminist Epistemologies
Susan Bordo. *Purification and Transcendence*
Alison Jaggar. *Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology*
Linda Martin Alcoff. *How Is Epistemology Political?*
Lorraine Code. *Taking Subjectivity into Account*
Sandra Harding. *Strong Objectivity*
Uma Narayan. *The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from A Nonwestern Feminist*