Spring 2026 Philosophy 4150: Feminism

(The course syllabus is subject to change by the instructor with sufficient notice to the class.)

Juana Alicia, *Auto-Vision* (1987)

Instructor Information

Professor: Denise Meda-Lambru
Pronouns: she/her/ella
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Course Information

Course Meetings: TTH 2:00 pm - 3:20 pm
Location: HKRY 252
Office Hours: Thursdays 11 am -1:00 pm in ENV (EESAT) 310U, or by appointment
Philosophy 4375 is a university core curriculum course.

Course Description

Feminism is an area of study in philosophy in which gender and gender oppressions are questioned, challenged, and theorized. This course will examine American and international feminisms with special attention to central and contemporary debates of gender, race, and class. Through close readings and engaging discussions, students will draw out connections between current social issues and their own personal and social responsibilities, particularly their impact on local and global communities.

Course Objectives

- Students will identify the arguments in the readings, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each argument, and synthesize positions on debates.
- Students will familiarize themselves with various approaches to feminism and social oppressions.
- Students will analyze gender, gender oppression, and resistance to gender

hierarchies, especially through intersectional, decolonial, and transnational discourses.

- Students will discuss feminist issues, focusing on historical, social and political realities, related to the intersections of gender, race, and class.
- Students will develop an understanding of cross-cultural discourses and connect their understandings of feminism with social and ethical responsibilities.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

To fully participate in the class, students will need internet access to reference Canvas and course materials. The course schedule lists the readings and assignment deadlines, it is available on Canvas. Readings are accessible digitally either through the UNT Library course guide* or through Canvas. The assigned readings should be read *prior* to the scheduled class discussions in order for each student to contribute to class discussions.
*PHIL 4150 Library Course Guide: https://guides.library.unt.edu/phil4150

Assignments

Discussion Boards (2) 20%
Exams (3) 50%
Group Presentations 10%
Attendance 10%
Participation 10%

Discussion Boards

Students will complete three discussion boards. They will respond to a discussion prompt and to peers who post on the topic. Discussion boards will be completed on *Canvas*.

Exams

Exams consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions. The third exam is during the final exam period: May 4th 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, and is worth 20% of this category scoring.

Group Presentations

In groups, students will deconstruct the argumentative structure of an assigned article. The group will examine the author's use of claims, evidence, reasoning, and counterarguments and present their analysis. They should also connect the analysis to key concepts and debates discussed in class.

Attendance

The course is scheduled to meet in person twice a week. Students are expected to attend every class on time. However, students are allowed four unexcused absences, without any penalty. After four unexcused absences, a 1% deduction will be applied to the attendance category for *each* missed class. Please note that attending less than 75% of a single class is considered an absence. If you miss a class, contact me immediately to discuss the class material and assignments.

Illness Related Measures

Students who have symptoms of illness should prioritize their health and that of their peers. This may include that one refrain from participating in face-to-face instruction or other measures to minimize exposure. Contact the professor if this is the case to discuss course materials and assignments.

Participation

Student participation includes discussing the course materials, especially with an understanding of the argument and main claims, critiques, questions, and connections with other course materials. Participation will be evaluated through a variety of opportunities such as in-class quizzes, and class discussion, i.e., asking questions, offering analysis and/or commentary, engagement during small group discussions.

Given that technology is essential for this course, it is important you utilize it as an advantage and not as a distraction. As such, cell phones and headphones or earbuds are not permitted for use during class, unless stated by the professor. Continuous disruptions will impact the learning environment and may result in penalties from the student's overall participation score.

A Note on Late Assignments

Late assignments are not generally accepted. However, I understand life happens, so I do make exceptions for excusable reasons that include health and a family member's health. Exceptions do not include computer errors, work schedules, or simply forgetting an assignment. After an absence, students should contact me within 48 hours. Students are required to speak with me prior to submitting the assignment, so I can determine an alternative submission date with penalty.

Grading Scale (points)

A = 200-180
B = 179-160
C =159-140
D = 139-120
F = 119-0

Classroom Environment

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. This course is going to discuss controversial issues that may challenge your understanding, patience, and interactions with one another. In order for us to preserve a space that allows us to investigate and engage critically, students are asked to participate in open dialogue. The UNT Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/

Email Communication

Students should check emails regularly. Any emails to me should follow proper email etiquette:

> A clear title in the subject line, a detailed purpose of the email in the text box, and a closing/student's signature.

I will respond to emails within 48 hours, Monday – Friday.

Suggestions for Succeeding in this Course

- Check *Canvas* regularly for assignments, readings, and course updates.
- Actively check your grade and attendance throughout the semester. It is easier to address any issues early on rather than at the end of the term.
- Exchange contact information with at least two peers so you can discuss the course material and/or notes if you miss any information or class.
- Use the campus resources to your advantage: UNT Writing Center and UNT libraries
- Philosophy courses may be challenging, especially at first, so *please* do not hesitate to ask for help. I encourage you to speak with me during office hours for further support.
- Additional philosophy resources:
  Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Feminist Philosophy: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-philosophy/
  Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Feminist Political Philosophy: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-political/
  Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Continental Feminism: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/femapproach-continental/
  Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latin American Feminism: https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-latin-america/
  Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy- https://iep.utm.edu/

Non-Academic Responsibilities

You are a student among many other roles you fulfill in life. If our course and other priorities, such as family responsibilities and work schedules conflict, please discuss the challenges with me. I will try to be flexible and accommodate your learning experience and outside classroom responsibilities.

UNT Policies

UNT Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Artificial Intelligence Use

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. In accordance with the UNT Honor Code, unauthorized use of GenAI tools is prohibited. Using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with different abilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability

Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter. Students will provide me with a copy of the letter and are encouraged to meet with me to discuss their course needs during office hours or through email. For additional information see the ODA website at https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/.

Eagle Alert

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, see the Campus Closures Policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006).