

Syllabi

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Rose Fonth
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Contemporary Issues in Feminist Philosophy

Instructor: Rose Fonth

Email: rose.fonth@rutgers.edu

Class Sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays

Location: TBD

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00pm and by appointment

Course Description:

This advanced course offers a rigorous examination of some of the most pressing debates currently shaping contemporary feminist philosophy. This course is structured around five units. We begin by analyzing concepts like social identity and oppression, establishing a theoretical foundation for the rest of the course. The next two units consist of a sustained philosophical analysis of gender, beginning first with an investigation into the metaphysics of gender before turning to certain issues within the transfeminist literature. The fourth unit then shifts the focus to intersectional methodologies, examining how our social identities can intermesh and intersect to co-constitute experiences of oppression and injustice. The final unit broadens the scope of the course by considering global perspectives on issues of decolonial and transnational feminist thought. The central goal is to equip students with the philosophical tools necessary to critique and contribute to ongoing discussions of identity, oppression, (in)justice, and liberation.

Course Materials:

All course reading materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Objectives:

1. To become acquainted with some of the contemporary debates within analytic feminist philosophy.
2. To gain an understanding of foundational feminist concepts, including social identity, oppression, and oppressive double binds.
3. To critically analyze and contrast some of the prominent philosophical positions on the metaphysics of gender, focusing on social position, identity, and pluralist accounts.
4. To apply these theoretical frameworks to issues within transfeminism and intersectionality theory, investigating phenomena like transphobia, misgendering, and interlocking systems of oppression.
5. To engage with decolonial and transnational critiques of Eurocentric feminism, exploring how concepts of gender and family are shaped by colonialism and diverse cultural contexts.
6. To develop and defend an original argument in a research paper that demonstrates philosophical rigor and critical engagement with the course material.

Evaluation:

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts: 15%

Critique Paper: 10%

Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Final Paper: 30%

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Critique Paper

This short paper will require that you briefly respond to an argument from one of the papers we discuss in the first half of the course. You can respond to any paper from Units 1, 2, or 3. The short response paper will be 3-4 pages long, double spaced. The Critique Paper is **due one week after we finish Unit 3**.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be one mid-term exam. It is scheduled at the end of Unit 3.

Final Exam

There will be one final exam. It is scheduled during the university-assigned finals week time.

Final Paper

This research paper will require that you critically engage with an argument or a debate in feminist philosophy. The final paper will be 8-10 pages long, double spaced. The final paper will be **due via Canvas by the end of Finals Week**.

Readings:

It is expected that you do each of the required reading for each session. Check the Canvas page for the updated reading list schedule. Also, while you do not need to do the optional readings, I strongly recommend looking through them if you are considering writing one of your papers on the relevant topic. My lectures may also reference the optional readings.

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Reading Schedule:

Unit 1: Identity and Oppression

Week 1

Social Identities

No Reading

Optional: Ásta (2018), "Introduction: Social Categories" in *Categories We Live By*

Social Identities

Reading: Ásta (2018), "The Conferralist Framework" in *Categories We Live By*

Week 2

Oppression

Reading: Marilyn Frye (1983), "Oppression"

Optional: Iris Marion Young (1990), "Five Faces of Oppression"

Oppression

Reading: Sukaina Hirji (2021), "Oppressive Double Binds"

Optional: bell hooks (1984), "Men: Comrades in Struggle" in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*.

Unit 2: Gender Metaphysics

Week 3

Gender as Social Position

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2000, 2012), "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?"

Gender as Gender Identity

Reading: Katharine Jenkins (2016), "Gender Identity and the Concept of Woman*"

Optional: Katharine Jenkins (2018), "Towards an Account of Gender Identity"

Optional: Rach Cosker-Rowland (2024) "Gender Identity: The Subjective Fit Account"

Week 4

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Gender Pluralism

Reading: Talia Bettcher (2013), “Trans Women and the Meaning of ‘Woman’”

Optional: Maria Lugones (1987), “Playfulness, “World”-Travelling, and Loving Perception”

Gender Pluralism

Reading: Ásta (2018), “Conferralism About Sex and Gender” in *Categories We Live By*

Optional: Robin Dembroff (2018), “Real Talk on the Metaphysics of Gender”

Week 5

Gender Abolitionism

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2004/2012), “Future Races? Future Genders?”

Optional: Matthew Cull (2019), “Against Abolition”

Catch-up

Unit 3: Transfeminism

Week 6

Trans Philosophy

Reading: Janice Raymond (1979), *The Transsexual Empire* (excerpts)

Optional: Alex Byrne (2020), “Are Women Adult Human Females?”

Optional: Talia Bettcher (2014) “Feminist Perspectives on Trans Issues” (SEP)

Trans Philosophy

Reading: Stone (1992), “The *Empire* Strikes Back: A (post)transsexual manifesto”

Optional: Robin Dembroff (2020), “Escaping the Natural Attitude About Gender”

Optional: Talia Bettcher (2019), “What is Trans Philosophy?”

Week 7

Transphobia

Reading: Talia Bettcher (2007), “Evil Deceivers and Make-Believers: On Transphobic Violence and the Politics of Illusion”

Optional: Fonth (manuscript), “Intimate Kinds of Double Binds”

Transphobia

Reading: Stephanie Kapusta (2016) “Misgendering and its Moral Contestability”

Week 8

Trans Futures

Reading: Rowan Bell & E.M. Hernandez (2025), “Unmotivating Gender Identity”

Trans Futures

Reading: Robin Dembroff (2024), “Reimagining Transgender”

Optional: Stephanie Kapusta (2024), “Replicating Gender: Reflections on Gender Concepts, Gender Kinds, and History”

Week 9

Catch-up

Midterm Exam

Unit 4: Intersectional Identities

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Week 10

Intersectionality

Reading: Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex”

Optional: Crenshaw (1991), “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”

Intersectionality

Reading: Katharine Jenkins (2019), “Conferralism and Intersectionality”

Optional: Patricia Hill Collins (1990), “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination”

Week 11

Race & Gender

Reading: bell hooks (1984), “Sisterhood: Political Solidarity Between Women” in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*

Gloria Anzaldúa (1987), “Towards a New Consciousness”, in *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*

Race & Gender

Reading: Linda Alcoff (2006), “On Being Mixed” in *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*

Unit 5: Decolonial & Transnational Feminism

Week 12

Decolonial Feminism

Reading: Maria Lugones (2007), “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System”

Optional: Aníbal Quijano (1992), “Coloniality of Power and Social Classification”

Decolonial Feminism

Reading: Maria Lugones, (2010) “Towards a Decolonial Feminism”

Optional: Marlene Wayar (2024), “Latin American *Travesti*/Trans Theory”

Week 13

Transnational Feminism

Reading: Serene Khader (2018), “Towards a Decolonial Feminist Universalism” in *Decolonizing Universalism*

Transnational Feminism

Reading: Serene Khader (2018), “Individualism: Beyond Okin’s Ultimatum” in *Decolonizing Universalism*

Week 14

Transnational Feminism

Reading: Nkiru Nzegwu (2006), “Igbo Family Structure and Feminist Concepts” in *Family Matters: Feminist Concepts in African Philosophy of Culture*

Transnational Feminism

Reading: Nkiru Nzegwu (2006), “Family Politics: Making Patriarchy in a Patrilineal Society” in *Family Matters: Feminist Concepts in African Philosophy of Culture*

Week 15

Catch-up

Rose Fonth
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Philosophy of Language

Instructor: Rose Fonth

Email: rose.fonth@rutgers.edu

Class Sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays

Location: TBD

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

How do our words manage to refer to objects out in the world? How do we use language to perform actions, issue commands, or subtly insinuate? And how is language itself a tool for both oppression and liberation? This advanced course investigates these core questions. We will first establish a strong foundation by analyzing some of the classical theories in semantics (Frege, Russell, Kripke) and pragmatics (Austin, Searle, Grice). We will then use this philosophical toolkit to investigate both the abuses of language and its liberatory potential. We will dedicate significant attention to the social and political functions of speech, examining topics such as dogwhistles, discursive injustice, and the derogatory force of slurs and deadnames. Finally, we will assess the philosophical arguments for different forms of counterspeech as tools of linguistic resistance.

Course Materials:

All course reading materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Objectives:

1. To acquire a strong foundation in some of the most influential theories of contemporary philosophy of language, including classic texts in semantics and pragmatics.
2. To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing classical theories on how language secures reference and truth.
3. To understand how pragmatic frameworks explain the ways we use language to perform actions, convey non-truth-conditional meaning, and structure conversations.
4. To apply these foundational tools to analyze the linguistic mechanisms of social power, harm, and resistance.
5. To produce a research paper that critically engages with a topic from the course and that demonstrates philosophical rigor and originality.

Evaluation:

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts: 15%

Exposition Paper: 10%

Mid-term Exam: 25%

Critique Paper: 20%

Final Paper: 30%

Discussion Posts

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on a claim or argument made, and you should cite the relevant reading. I will put up each discussion post after our Wednesday session, and they will be **due on Saturdays, 11:59pm**.

Exposition Paper

This short paper will require that you briefly explain one of the arguments from Unit 1. The paper will be 2-3 pages long, double-spaced. The Exposition Paper is **due one week after we finish Unit 1**.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be one mid-term exam. It is scheduled at the end of Unit 2.

Critique Paper

This paper will require that you briefly explain and respond to an argument from one of the papers in the latter half of the course. You can respond to any paper from Unit 3. The Critique Paper will be 3-4 pages long, double spaced. The Critique Paper is **due one week after we finish Unit 3**.

Final Paper

This research paper will require that you critically engage with one of the views discussed in the course. The final paper will be 8-10 pages long, double spaced. The final paper will be **due via Canvas by the end of Finals Week**.

Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course.

Readings:

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Reading Schedule:

Unit 1: Semantics

Week 1

Introduction

(Fregean) Descriptivism

Reading: Gottlob Frege (1892), "On Sense and Reference"

Week 2

(Russellian) Descriptivism

Reading: Bertrand Russell (1905), "On Denoting"

(Ordinary Language) Descriptivism

Reading: P.F. Strawson (1950), "On Referring"

Optional: Bertrand Russell (1957), "Mr. Strawson on Referring"

Week 3

Direct Reference

Saul Kripke (1980), *Naming and Necessity* (pgs. 290-305)

Neo-Fregeanism

Jerrold Katz (1994), "Names Without Bearers"

Optional: Braun (1995), "Katz on Names Without Bearers"

Unit 2: Pragmatics

Week 4

Speech Acts

Reading: J.L. Austin (1956), "Performative Utterances"

Speech Acts

Reading: John Searle (1976), "The Taxonomy of Speech Acts"

Optional: John Searle (1969), "The Structure of Illocutionary Acts" (pgs. 146-156)

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Week 5

Conversation

Reading: H.P. Grice (1975), “Logic and Conversation”

Conversation

Reading: David Lewis (1979), “Scorekeeping in a Language Game”

Week 6

Conversation

Reading: Brandom (1983), “Asserting”

Conversation

Reading: Elisabeth Camp (2018), “Insinuation, Common Ground, and the Conversational Record”

Week 7

Catch-up

Mid-Term

Unit 3: The Normativity of Speech

Week 8

Dogwhistles

Reading: Carlos Santana (2021), “What’s Wrong With Dogwhistles?”

Dogwhistles

Reading: Kelly Weirich (2025), “Brazen Dogwhistles”

Optional: Jennifer Saul (2024), “Dogwhistles and Figleaves”

Week 9

QUD-Shifting

Reading: Jessica Keiser (2021), “The ‘All Lives Matter’ Response: QUD-Shifting as Epistemic Injustice”

Cont.

Week 10

Identity Enforcement

Reading: Quill Kukla & Mark Lance (2022), “Telling Gender: The Pragmatics and Ethics of Gender Ascriptions”

Optional: Quill Kukla (2014), “Performative Force, Convention, and Discursive Injustice”

Counterspeech

Reading: Rae Langton (2018), “Blocking as Counterspeech”

Optional: Rae Langton (1993), “Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts” (sections I & II)

Week 11

Counterspeech

Reading: Laura Caponetto & Bianca Cepollaro (2023), “Bending as Counterspeech”

Catch-up

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Unit 4: Pejoratives

Week 12

Pejorative Language

Reading: Jennifer Hornsby (2001), “Meaning and Uselessness: How to Think About Derogatory Words”

Slurs

Reading: Chris Hom (2008), “The Semantics of Racial Epithets”

Optional: Ralph DiFranco (2015), “Do Racists Speak Truly? On the Truth-Conditional Content of Slurs”

Week 13

Slurs

Reading: Renée Bolinger (2017), “The Pragmatics of Slurs”

Optional: Geoffrey Nunberg (2018), “The Social Life of Slurs”

Slurs

Reading: Ernie Lepore & Una Stojnic (2021), “Inescapable Articulations: Vessels of Lexical Effects”

Week 14

Names

Reading: Taylor Koles (2024), “The Semantics of Deadnames”

Names

Reading: Victor Carranza-Pinedo (2024), “Slurring Individuals”

Week 15

Names

Reading: Elisabeth Camp (2025), “Nicknames as Tools for Managing Face”

Catch-up

Rose Fonth
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Philosophy of Race

Instructor: Rose Fonth

Email: rose.fonth@rutgers.edu

Class Sessions: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Location: TBD

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

This advanced course provides a comprehensive survey of contemporary philosophical issues about race. The course is organized into four distinct units. We begin with the metaphysics of race, investigating whether race is a biological reality, a social construction, or a concept that should be eliminated entirely. The second unit focuses on an analysis of racism and prejudice, exploring competing theories that define racism as an individual vice, a system-wide ideology, or a form of irrationality. In the third unit, we turn to the issue of racial identity and ignorance, analyzing the lived experience of race and the structural features of racial oppression and epistemic violence. The final unit addresses further relevant moral and political issues at stake, such as the grounds for racial solidarity, the demands of intersectional critique, and the case for reparations.

Course Materials:

All course reading materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Objectives:

1. To become acquainted with some of the foundational questions and contemporary debates within the philosophy of race.
2. To evaluate the soundness of opposing philosophical arguments concerning the existence and nature of race and racial categories.
3. To understand how different theories of racism (e.g., as vice, ideology, or irrationality) lead to different diagnoses of its social function.
4. To apply abstract philosophical concepts to concrete moral, social, and political issues such as epistemic ignorance, racial solidarity, and reparations.
5. To write a research paper that critically engages with a specific course topic, proposing an original argument and defending it from potential objections.

Evaluation:

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts: 15%

Critique Paper: 10%

Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Final Paper: 30%

Discussion Posts

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Critique Paper

This paper will require that you briefly respond to an argument from one of the papers we discuss in the first half of the course. You can respond to any paper from Units 1 or 2. This Critique paper will be 3-4 pages long, double spaced. The Critique Paper is **due one week after we finish Unit 3**.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be one mid-term exam. It is scheduled at the end of Unit 2.

Final Exam

There will be one final exam. It is scheduled during the university-assigned finals week time.

Final Paper

This research paper will require that you critically engage with at least one of the views discussed from the course. The final paper will be 8-10 pages long, double spaced. The final paper will be **due via Canvas by the end of Finals Week**.

Readings:

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Reading Schedule:

Unit 1: The Metaphysics of Race

Week 1

Introduction

No reading

Optional: Glasgow, Haslanger, Jeffers, Spencer (2019), “Introduction” in *What is Race?*

Race Conservationism

Reading: W.E.B. Du Bois (1897), “The Conservation of Races”

Week 2

Race Eliminativism

Reading: Kwame Anthony Appiah, (1989), “The Conservation of Race”

Optional: Appiah (2018), “Color”, in *The Lies That Bind: Rethinking Identity*

Optional: Sally Haslanger (2012), “Future Genders? Future Races?”

Social Constructionism

Sally Haslanger (2012), “A Social Constructionist Analysis of Race”

Optional: Ron Mallon (2003), “Social Construction, Social Roles, and Stability”

Week 3

Social Constructionism

Chike Jeffers (2019), “Cultural Constructionism” in *What is Race?*

Optional: Lucious Outlaw (1996), “Conserve Races? In Defense of W.E.B. Du Bois”

Racial Realism

Reading: Immanuel Kant (1777), *Of the Different Human Races* (excerpts)

Optional: Naomi Zack (2014), “The Philosophical Roots of Racial Essentialism and its Legacy”

Week 4

Racial Realism

Reading: Quayshawn Spencer (2019), “How To Be A Biological Racial Realist” in *What is Race?*

Catch-up

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Unit 2: Racism & Prejudice

Week 5

Racism: Vice

Reading: J.L.A. Garcia (1996), “The Heart of Racism”

Optional: Ian Peebles (2024), “Toward a Virtue-Based Account of Racism”

Racism: Ideology

Reading: Shelby (2002), “Is Racism in the Heart?”

Optional: Bonilla-Silva (1997), “Rethinking Racism: Toward a Structural Interpretation”

Week 6

Racism: Ideology

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2017), “Racism, Ideology, and Social Movements”

Optional: Tommie Shelby (2014), “Racism, Moralism, and Social Criticism”

Racism: Irrationality

Reading: Jordan Scott (2025), “Putting Racism Back in the Head”

Week 7

Prejudice

Reading: Endre Begby (2021), “Prejudice from an Epistemological Point of View” in *Prejudice: A Study in Non-ideal Epistemology*

Prejudice

Reading: Basu (2018), “The Wrongs of Racist Beliefs”

Optional: Sarah Moss (2018), “Moral Encroachment”

Week 8

Catch-up

Mid-Term

Unit 3: Racial Identity & Ignorance

Week 9

Racial Identity

Reading: W.E.B. Du Bois (1903) “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” in *The Souls of Black Folk*

Racial Identity

Reading: Frantz Fanon (1952), “The Fact of Blackness” in *Black Skin, White Masks*

Week 10

Racial Identity

Reading: J.L.A. Garcia (2007), “Racial or Ethnic Identity?” in *Race or Ethnicity? On Black and Latino Identity*

Racial Identity

Reading: Linda Martín Alcoff (2012), “Is Latina/o a Racial Identity?”

Week 11

Ignorance

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Reading: Maria Lugones (1990), “Structure/Antistructure and Agency Under Oppression”
Optional: Lugones (1987), “Playfulness, ‘World’-Travelling, and Loving Perception”

Ignorance

Reading: Charles Mills (2007), “White Ignorance”
Optional: José Medina (2012), “Active Ignorance, Epistemic Others, and Epistemic Friction” in *The Epistemology of Resistance*

Week 12

Ignorance

Reading: Kristie Dotson (2011), “Tracking Epistemic Violence, Tracking Practices of Silencing”

Catch-up

Unit 4: Racial (In)Justice and Politics

Week 13

Race & Society

Reading: Charles Mills (1997), “Overview” in *The Racial Contract*
Optional: Mills, “Details” in *The Racial Contract*

Race & Society

Reading: Tommie Shelby (2002), “Foundations of Black Solidarity: Collective Identity or Common Oppression?”
Optional: Gloria Anzaldúa (1987), “Towards a New Consciousness” in *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*

Week 14

Racial Politics: Intersectionality

Reading: Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex”
Optional: Kimberlé Crenshaw (1991), “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”

Racial Politics: Intersectionality

Reading: Patricia Hill Collins (1990), “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination”

Week 15

Racial Politics: Reparations

Reading: Bernard Boxill (1976), “The Morality of Reparations”
Optional: Naomi Zack (2002), “Reparations and the Rectification of Race”

Racial Politics: Reparations

Reading: Tan (2021), “Reparations: is International Reparative Justice Possible and Necessary?” in *What Is This Thing Called Global Justice?*”

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Social Metaphysics

Instructor: Rose Fonth

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Location: TBD

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00pm and by appointment

Course Description:

This advanced course provides a rigorous investigation into the structure of social reality. We begin by examining the "building blocks" of the social world, analyzing classic theories of collective intentionality and institutional facts. We then move onto the nature of social construction, analyzing various influential frameworks such as anchoring, grounding, and conferralism. Equipped with these metaphysical tools, we then apply them to issues of realism, intersectionality, and amelioration, and we investigate the nature of other seemingly social kinds like race, sexuality, and disability. The course then concludes with an engagement with the "22nd Century" of the discipline, asking how non-ideal social ontology can help us understand phenomena ranging from bitcoin and astrology to race and gender abolitionism.

Course Materials:

All course reading materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Objectives:

1. To acquire a strong foundation in certain influential theories within social ontology, including the nature of collective intentionality and the distinction between grounding and anchoring.
2. To critically evaluate competing theories of social construction.
3. To investigate the methodological shift toward ameliorative and emancipatory metaphysics, understanding how defining social concepts can be a tool for social and political justice.
4. To apply metaphysical tools to the analysis of specific social kinds, examining the ontological status of race, sexuality, and disability, as well as related phenomena like bitcoin and astrology.
5. To develop and defend an original argument in a research paper that demonstrates philosophical rigor and critical engagement with contemporary texts in social metaphysics.

Evaluation:

Grade Breakdown:

Discussion Posts: 15%

Critique Paper: 10%

Mid-term Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Final Paper: 30%

Discussion Posts

Before the start of each week, you will submit a discussion post (minimum 200 words) via Canvas where you comment on one of the readings for the week. You can either pose a question or comment on a claim or argument made, and you should cite the relevant reading. I will put up each discussion post after our Thursday session, and they will be **due on Sundays, 11:59pm**.

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Critique Paper

This short paper will require that you briefly respond to an argument from one of the papers we discuss in the first half of the course. You can respond to any paper from Units 1, 2, or 3. The short response paper will be 3-5 pages long, double spaced. The Critique Paper is **due one week after we finish Unit 3**.

Mid-Term Exam

There will be one mid-term exam. It is scheduled at the end of Unit 3.

Final Exam

There will be one final exam. It is scheduled during the university-assigned finals week time.

Final Paper

This research paper will require that you critically engage with an argument or a debate in feminist philosophy. The final paper will be 10-12 pages long, double spaced. The final paper will be **due via Canvas by the end of Finals Week**.

Readings:

It is expected that you do each of the required reading for each session. Check the Canvas page for the updated reading list schedule. Also, while you do not need to do the optional readings, I strongly recommend looking through them if you are considering writing one of your papers on the relevant topic. My lectures may also reference the optional readings.

Meetings:

My office is in **Room 544** of the **Philosophy Department**, which is located on the 5th floor of the Gateway Building. I am available each week for in-person meetings during my designated office hours. If that time does not work for you, feel free to send me an email so we can schedule an appointment at a time that does work.

Electronic Communication:

Besides in-person communication, you can also contact me by sending me an email to my email address (rose.fonth@rutgers.edu) or by sending me a message on Canvas. While I will respond to either form of communication, I do respond quicker via email, so I would *strongly recommend* that you communicate with me via email rather than via Canvas.

Late Policy:

Papers must be submitted by the deadline to be considered for full credit. For each day that a paper is late, the paper will be deducted by one partial letter grade (i.e., it will lose 3 points per day).

However, I do grant **extensions** depending on the circumstances. An extension will be granted only for: compelling academic reasons (e.g., conflicts with other deadlines); or compelling personal reasons (which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis).

Accommodations:

I am committed to ensuring that every student can pursue their academic goals in this course. If you need certain accommodations or services, please reach out to me. You can find more about Rutgers' accommodations and services on their "Access and Disability Services" webpage here: <https://radr.rutgers.edu>. Once you have enrolled with the relevant access and disability services office,

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I may ask to see your letter of accommodations, which you can also find more info about here:
<https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/loa>

Academic Integrity:

No form of cheating, plagiarism, or any other sort of academic wrongdoing will be tolerated in this course. This includes improper use of ChatGPT, Gemini, or any other AI chatbot. I strongly recommend that you familiarize yourself with the university's Academic Integrity Policy if you have any questions regarding what sort of activity would constitute a violation of the university's policy:
<https://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/pdfs/current.pdf>

Reading Schedule:

Unit 1: Collective Intentionality

Week 1

Social Objectivity

Reading: Searle (1995), "The Building Blocks of Social Reality" in *The Construction of Social Reality*

Institutional Facts

Reading: Searle (1995) "The General Theory of Institutional Facts", in *The Construction of Social Reality*

Optional: Searle (1995) "Creating Institutional Facts", in *The Construction of Social Reality*

Week 2

Group Intentions

Reading: List and Pettit (2011) *Group Agency* (Chapter 1)

Unintended Social Objects

Reading: Amie Thomasson (2003) "Foundations for a Social Ontology"

Unit 2: Social Construction

Week 3

Social Position

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2000, 2012), "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?"

Social Significance

Reading: Åsta (2018) "The Conferralist Framework", in *Categories We Live By*

Week 4

Social Significance

Reading: Åsta (2018) "Social Construction as Social Significance", in *Categories We Live By*

Social Debunking

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2012) "Social ConstructionL The Debunking Project" in *Resisting Reality*

Week 5

Grounding & Anchoring

Reading: Brian Epstein (2015) "Grounding and Anchoring", in *The Ant Trap*

Optional: Brian Epstein (2015) "Getting to the Consensus View", in *The Ant Trap*

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Grounding & Anchoring

Reading: Jonathan Schaffer (2019) “Anchoring as Grounding: On Epstein’s The Ant Trap”

Optional: Jonathan Schaffer (2009) “On What Grounds What”

Unit 3: Feminist Metaphysics

Week 6

Intersectionality

Reading: Sara Bernstein (2020) “The Metaphysics of Intersectionality”

Optional: Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex”

Intersectionality

Reading: Katherine Jenkins (2019) “Conferralism and Intersectionality”

Week 7

Amelioration & Realism

Reading: Sally Haslanger, “Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?”

Optional: Sally Haslanger (2020), “Going On, Not in the Same Way”

Amelioration & Realism

Reading: Elizabeth Barnes (2017) “Realism and Social Structure”

Week 8

Amelioration & Realism

Reading: Elizabeth Barnes and Dee Payton (2025) “Emancipatory Methodology”

Injustice

Robin Dembroff (2018) “Real Talk On the Metaphysics of Gender”

Optional: Louise Antony (2020) “Feminism Without Metaphysics or a Deflationary Account of Gender”

Week 9

Injustice

Katherine Jenkins (2020/2023) “Ontic Injustice”

Mid-Term

Unit 4: Social Kinds: Race, Sexuality, and Disability

Week 10

Race

Reading: Kwame Anthony Appiah, (1989), “The Conservation of *Race*”

Race

Reading: Sally Haslanger (2012) “A Social Constructionist Analysis of Race”

Optional: Ron Mallon (2003), “Social Construction, Social Roles, and Stability”

Week 11

Sexuality

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Reading: Robin Dembroff (2016) “What is Sexual Orientation?”
Optional: Bettcher (2014) “When Selves Have Sex”

Sexuality

Kevin Richardson (2025) “‘Just a Little Gay’: How Sexual Orientation Comes in Degrees”

Week 12

Disability

Reading: Elizabeth Barnes (2016) “The Value-Neutral Model”, in *The Minority Body: A Theory of Disability*

Optional: Elizabeth Barnes (2016) “Constructing Disability” in *The Minority Body: A Theory of Disability*

Disability

Reading: Chong-Ming Lim (2018) “Disabilities Are Also Legitimately Medically Interesting Constraints on Legitimate Interests”

Unit 5: 22nd Century Social Metaphysics

Week 13

(Non)Ideal Social Ontology

Reading: Åsa Burman (2023) “Critique of the Standard Model of Ideal Social Ontology” in *Non-Ideal Social Ontology*

Optional: Åsa Burman (2023) “Introduction: Ideal and Non-Ideal Social Ontology”

(Non)Ideal Social Ontology

Reading: Åsa Burman (2023) “Non-Ideal Social Ontology” in *Non-Ideal Social Ontology*

Week 14

Bitcoin

Reading: Asya Passinsky (2020) “Should Bitcoin Be Classified As Money?”

Optional: Martin Lipman (2023) “On Bitcoin: A Study in Applied Metaphysics”

Astrology & Capitalism

Reading: Matthew Cull and Nadia Mehdi (2023) “The Political Social Ontology of Astrology”

Week 15

Abolitionism

Reading: Haslanger (2012) “Future Genders? Future Races?”

Abolitionism

Reading: Matthew Cull (2019) “Against Abolitionism”

Optional: Daniel Weltman (2024) “What Do We Want? To Eliminate Gender! When Do We Want It? Later!”