June 12, 2016

Peter Law
Sr. Academic Administrator
College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Dear Peter,

The Department of Philosophy, the Department of Political Science, and the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies request that the existing course PH256/PO396: The Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality be cross-listed with the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The new course number will be CAS PH256/PO396/WS396. We hope to offer this course in spring 2017.

Sincerely,

Allen Speight
Chair, Philosophy

David Mayers,
Chair, Political Science

(via direct email from Carrie Preston)
Carrie Preston
Director, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
To think and to be fully alive are the same thing.” – Hannah Arendt

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course explores philosophical questions that arise about gender and sexuality. What is sexism? What is oppression? What is the correct response to sexism and oppression? How many sexes are there? How many genders? What is sexual orientation? What is sexual perversion? What are sexual ethics, including questions about the value and status of monogamy, polyamory, promiscuity, and adultery? What are the moral status of practices such as sex work and pornography?

This course counts toward the minor in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

**TEACHING FELLOW:** Kurt Blankschaen
Email: blankskm@gmail.com
Office hours: Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM in STH 502

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Please make sure you have these exact editions of the books.

1) *Coursepack* [CP]


4) Additional readings will be made available electronically. The course Blackboard site is available at https://lms.bu.edu.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:**

1) Pre-class study questions: Every reading is accompanied by a set of study questions, found on Blackboard. For each reading, you must turn in an answer to one of the study questions. If there are two readings for a particular day, you must turn in two answers – one for each reading. When we watch films, there will be pre-class viewing questions posted on Blackboard. Your answers can be typed or handwritten. In your answers you need to show that you have carefully read the material; quoting and referencing particular page numbers is a good way to do this. For readings in the coursepack, use the page numbers of the coursepack (on the bottom center of the page). Many of the questions have more than one part. Make sure to answer all of the parts of the question. Partial answers will not be given credit. You must turn your answers in directly to Kurt within the first 5 minutes of class in order to get credit. Late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments over email will not be accepted. You must hand in your assignments in person. Your lowest 2 grades will be
dropped. This is a pass/fail exercise; but, *if your answer makes it clear that you did not make a serious attempt to engage the question, you will not receive credit.* This is an opportunity for you to prepare for that day’s material, so take advantage of it. 25%.

2) Three in-class exams (dates subject to change):
   1st in-class exam (Tuesday, February 9th): 10%
   2nd in-class exam (Thursday, March 3rd): 15%
   3rd in-class exam (Thursday, April 7th): 20%

3) Final exam (Tuesday, May 3rd 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM): 30%

  
  A = Excellent
  A- = Excellent
  B+ = Excellent
  B = Good
  B- = Good
  C+ = Good
  C = Satisfactory
  C- = Satisfactory
  D = Low, pass
  F = Fail, no credit

**POLICIES:**

1) Make-up exams will be permitted if a student can provide documentation for an excused absence (e.g. doctor's letter or documentation for other kinds of absences allowed under University policy).

2) No laptop or cell phone use in class.

3) Students are expected to abide by all university and departmental standards on plagiarism and academic conduct. Consult the [College of Arts and Sciences Academic Conduct Code](http://www.bu.edu/reg/grades/explanation-of-grades/) for clarification of official standards. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in any form.

*Obsolete: BU Conduct Code and url required*

**ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES:** If you are on record with the university as requiring special accommodations, please stop by my office and let me know in confidence within the first two weeks of the semester. If you find, during the course of the semester, that special accommodations are required, please bring me the relevant documentation from the university as soon as you acquire it.
REVISED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS [subject to change]

** It is very important that you bring the reading for that day with you to class. **

**SEX AND GENDER**

- **Tuesday, January 19th**: Greta Christina, “Are We Having Sex Now or What?” in CP, pp. 1-6
- **Thursday, January 21st**: Marilyn Frye, Lesbian Sex” in CP, pp. 7-12
- **Tuesday, January 26th**: Thomas Nagel, “Sexual Perversion” in CP, pp. 13-25
- **Tuesday, February 2nd**: Thomas Mappes, “Sexual Morality and the Concept of Using Another Person” in CP, pp. 37-45
- **Thursday February 4th**: Robin West, “The Harms of Consensual Sex” in CP, pp. 47-50
- **Tuesday February 9th**: Exam #1

**OPPRESSION AND SEXISM**

- **Thursday, February 11th**: John Stuart Mill, “The Subjection of women” on Blackboard
- **Tuesday, February 16th**: No class. Monday schedule of classes.
- **Thursday, February 18th**: Marilyn Frye, “Oppression” in PR, pp. 1-16 and Sandra Bartky, “Psychological Oppression” in FD (you only need to read p. 27 of the Bartky)
- **Tuesday, February 23rd**: Frye, “Sexism” in PR, pp. 17-40 in PR
- **Thursday, February 25th**: Bartky “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power” in FD, pp. 63-82
- **Tuesday, March 1st**: Richard Wasserstrom, “Sex Roles and the Ideal Society” on Blackboard
- **Thursday, March 3rd**: Exam #2

- **Tuesday, March 8th**: Spring Break
- **Thursday, March 10th**: Spring Break

**PORNOGRAPHY AND SEX WORK**

- **Tuesday, March 15th**: Martha Nussbaum, “Whether from Reason or Prejudice: Taking Money for Bodily Services” in CP, pp. 53-84
- **Thursday, March 17th**: Yolanda Estes, “Prostitution: A Subjective Position” in CP, pp. 85-93
- **Tuesday, March 22nd**: Christine Overall, “What’s Wrong With Prostitution?: Evaluating Sex Work” in CP, pp. 95-104
• Thursday, March 24th: No new reading. Movie: The Price of Pleasure [Pre-viewing questions on Blackboard]

• Tuesday, March 29th: Mason-Grant, “Pornography as Embodied Practice” in CP, pp. 105-112

• Thursday, March 31st: Sallie Tisdale, “Talk Dirty to Me” in CP, pp. 113-121 and Dorothy Allison, Selections from “Skin” in CP, pp. 123-134

• Tuesday, April 5th: Bartky, “Feminine Masochism and the Politics of Personal Transformation” in FD, pp. 45-62

• Thursday, April 7th: Exam 3

  SEXUAL MORALITY

• Tuesday, April 12th: John McMurtry, “Monogamy: A Critique” by in CP, pp. 135-147

• Thursday, April 14th: To be determined.

• Tuesday, April 19th: Michael Bayles, “Marriage, Love, and Procreation: A Critique of McMurtry” in CP, pp. 149-155

• Thursday, April 21st: Frederick Elliston, “In Defense of Promiscuity” in CP, pp. 157-163

• Tuesday, April 26th: C.S.I. Jenkins and Jonathan Jenkins Ichikawa, “On Being the Only Ones” in CP, pp. 165-170

• Thursday, April 28th: Raja Halwani, “On Fucking Around” in CP pp. 171-180

  Final Exam: Tuesday, May 3rd 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM