

PHIL 458 / PHIL 673 / Phil 675  
**Feminism, Bodies, and Biology**  
Wednesday 11:30-2:20  
EV3 3406

Professor: Carla Fehr

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Office hours: Thursday 1:30-3:30, and by appointment

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### Course Description

*In this Philosophy of Science class we will develop a set of theoretical tools for engaging and analyzing biological research on sex/gender and we will use these tools to explore philosophical and historical accounts of scientific research on the impact of maternal experience and behavior on offspring development and well-being. I do not expect students come to this class with any background in feminism, biology, or philosophy of science, although students will leave the class knowing about these topics.*

### Course objectives

- 1) Develop theoretical tools for analyzing biological research on sex/gender
- 2) Apply these theoretical tools to a current case studies
- 3) Improve constructive and critical analysis and communication skills
- 4) Explore the structure and production of philosophical papers and books
- 5) Acquire an appreciation for the elegance and significance of Feminist Philosophy of Biology

### Required Readings

Readings will include articles, book chapters, manuscripts, as well as each other's 3-2-1 and structure papers, and will be available on LEARN or at the Dana Porter Library.

### Grade Distribution

Phil 458	Phil 673/ 675	
Participation	Participation	<b>20</b>
3-2-1	3-2-1	<b>20</b>
Structure Paper	Structure Paper	<b>10</b>
Project proposal	Project proposal	<b>10</b>
Project	Project	<b>25</b>
Project presentation	Project presentation	<b>15</b>
		<b>100</b>

### **Participation**

Your participation grade will be based on attendance, and thoughtful and respectful engagement with the course materials, other students, and the professor. I expect you to arrive in class with your reading notes for the material we will be covering that day and ready to discuss the topic at hand. I expect you to treat other members of the class with professional courtesy. We will talk about what this means during the first day of class. If you miss more than one class session it will have a negative impact on your final grade.

### **3-2-1 Papers**

You will submit 9, one-page 3-2-1 papers over the course of the semester. These papers will be on the readings that we will cover in class that week. In them you will list

- three main points about the reading,
- two questions about the reading, and
- one thing that you would like to know more about.

Some of your classmates will read your 3-2-1 papers and these papers will be the basis for our class discussions. You will submit your 3-2-1 papers on LEARN by noon on the Tuesday before class. You should also bring a hard copy of this paper to class.

A late 3-2-1 paper will receive a failing grade. I will drop your two lowest 3-2-1 paper grades. This is to allow for life events that are out of your control—for example if you are sick or need to attend a funeral.

### **Structure papers**

Students will take turns writing these papers, these papers will be available to the rest of the class, and they will also be used to structure our class discussion. They will be about a page long and the goal is to explain what kind of research the paper exemplifies and the structure of the paper. I will give you more information about this assignment early in the term.

### **Projects**

Students will design, carry out and present a project related to the class and advancing some of the course outcomes. This project could be a traditional paper, empirical research, a creative project, or something else. You must have your project OK'ed by me before you begin. We will discuss projects in more detail early in the term.

You will be graded on three project activities:

- Your project proposal (due on February 7)
- Your project itself (due on March 7)
- A presentation of your project

**Calendar of Readings** (This is subject to change, depending on class size.)

January 3	Introduction	
January 10	Coupled ethical and epistemic responsibility	Tuana 2010, Canada's RCR Framework 2016, Ethical Conduct For Research Involving Humans 2014
January 17		Harding 1995, Longino 1993
January 24	Mechanism, reductionism, determinism	Weaver and Fehr 2017, Fehr 2004, Merchant 1980
January 31		Hubbard, Birke, Fausto-Sterling (details tba)
February 7	Essentialism, sex/gender, difference	Lugones and Spellman, Roy (details tba)
February 14		Richardson prospectus, and ch 1
February 28		Richardson chs 2, 3, 4
March 7		Richardson chs 5, 6, 7
March 14		Richardson chs 8, and 9
March 21		Presentations
March 28		Presentations
April 4		Presentations

**University policies****Cross-listed course (requirement for all Arts courses)**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

**Academic Integrity**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life

has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

**Note for students with disabilities:** The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Mental Health Support**

#### **On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 xt 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

#### **Off campus, 24/7**

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes ten kilometres on each side of the Grand River.