

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2026-27**

**Philosophy 4530  
Feminist Continental Philosophy**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Information including instructor contact details and course location can be found on the course

Owl BrightSpace:

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

**PREREQUISITE CHECKING**

The course is restricted to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th year students.

**DESCRIPTION**

Feminist continental philosophy comes out of the European philosophical tradition which it both draws upon and critiques. Philosophers and theorists in this interdisciplinary approach investigate not only the structures that shape lived experience and the ways we encounter worlds and others, they also critically question those transcendental structures that support appearances. These structures, such as heteronormativity, racialization, colonialism, patriarchy and normativity, do not generally come into appearance in themselves, even as they shape the relations between people, world and environment that do. Intersecting with analytic feminist, Black feminist, critical phenomenological as well as critical race theory, feminist continental philosophers draw on the methodological tools of the continental tradition (for example, the work of Foucault, Derrida and Merleau-Ponty) which they subvert in their interdisciplinary approaches. We will be reading works marked as classics of the tradition, for example from Simone de Beauvoir, as well as works that might not specifically be called feminist, such as from Hannah Arendt. Previous courses in feminist theory/philosophy are not required.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Neutral peoples, on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This place continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are recognized as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to society.

**TEXTS:** Readings will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course will enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of feminist continental philosophy in the context of both continental philosophy and feminist philosophy.
- Understand and apply feminist continental approaches
- Recognize some ethical and political issues raised by feminist continental philosophers
- Develop critical thinking and writing skills

## **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

Short Essay	25%	(5-6 pages)
Final Essay	40%	(10-12 pages)
Participation	10%	
Conference presentation	25%	

**Note: Generative AI Usage:** Generative AI may not be used to analyze or write your assignments for you. You may use AI tools for copyediting purposes and to locate sources – but you must read and analyze those sources yourself. If you choose to use AI, you are accountable for the integrity of the research. You must disclose how and when you used AI, and which tools you used, in the first footnote or endnote of your assignment.

## **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

The Department of Philosophy policies that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses are available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found [here](#).

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENT**

The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which course assignments will be accepted for credit in a course. Instructors will be required to return assignments to students as promptly as possible with reasonable explanations of the instructor's assessment of the assignment.

## **ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [https://www.uwo.ca/biology/pdfs/undergraduate/rights-and-responsibilities/scholastic\\_discipline\\_.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/biology/pdfs/undergraduate/rights-and-responsibilities/scholastic_discipline_.pdf)

## **PLAGIARISM CHECKING**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

**Note: This Outline is Subject to Change before the Course Begins.**