

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy
Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

Feminist Continental Philosophy
Winter 2027

Instructor: Helen Fielding (Philosophy/Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies)

Class time: Wednesday 2:30-5:30

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Office Hours: TBA

Course 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.