PHI 5593
Topics in Philosophy and
Interdisciplinary Studies:
Philosophy and Gender Studies
Spring, 2026
Contact Tel. No.: 92206836
Email: profevaman@gmail.com

Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture and Discussion
Class Contact Hours	:	3
Category in Major Programme	:	Elective

Course Description

This course explores the dynamic intersection of gender and philosophy, examining how gender constructs shape philosophical discourse and vice versa. Students will engage with foundational feminist theories and critically assess their challenges to traditional Western philosophical paradigms—particularly in epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, mind-body dualism, and conceptions of the self. Through the works of influential feminist thinkers, the course will investigate how notions of "masculinity" and "femininity" have influenced philosophical thought. It will also introduce feminist philosophies as alternative and integrative frameworks, drawing comparisons with Chinese philosophical traditions. Students will be encouraged to reflect on how these debates resonate with and inform everyday life.

Aims

1. Introduce the gender dimension within philosophical inquiry.
2. Examine feminist critiques of Western philosophical traditions.
3. Explore key agendas and themes in feminist philosophy.
4. Develop critical perspectives on feminist philosophical thought.
5. Connect philosophical debates on gender to real-world experiences and practices.

Learning Outcomes

CILO 1: Demonstrate understanding of major concepts from seminal texts in gender and philosophy, forming a strong foundation for further research.

CILO 2: Develop and articulate critical thinking skills through discussion of gender-related philosophical issues.

CILO 3: Analyse contemporary everyday life issues through the lens of cultural context, theoretical frameworks, and gendered ideological structures.

Indicative Content

1. **Jan 7, 2026**
   Introduction: Philosophy and Gender
2. **Jan 14, 2026**
   Feminist critique of the History of Western Philosophy
3. **Jan 21, 2026**
   Gender and Epistemology 1+ Group Discussion 1
4. **Jan 28, 2026**
   Gender and Epistemology 2+ Group Discussion 2
5. **Feb 4, 2026**
   Gender and Ethics 1 + Group Discussion 3
6. **Feb 11, 2026**
   Gender and Ethics 2 + Group Discussion 4
7. **Feb 25, 2026**
   Gender and Aesthetics 1 + Group Discussion 5
8. **March 4, 2026**
   Gender and Aesthetics 2 + Group Discussion 6
9. **March 11, 2026**
   Gender, Language and The Problem of the Self + Group Discussion 7
10. **March 18, 2026**
    Gender and Philosophy of Body and Mind1+ Group Discussion 8
11. **March 25, 2026**
    Gender and Philosophy of Body and Mind 2 + Group Discussion 9

12 **April 8, 2026**
Feminism and Chinese Philosophy + Individual Presentations 1

13 **April 15, 2026**
Critical Conclusion + Individual Presentations 2
(**NO CLASS on Feb 18 and April 1, 2026**)

Teaching Methods

- Lectures will be delivered throughout the course with student presentations and class discussion.
- Relevant teaching materials in philosophical texts, films and art work will be used.
- Students will be given specific assignments for readings and discussion.

Please refer to online platform of the course for all the tutorial and supplementary readings, which can be downloaded for your preparation.

Assessment

All students will participate in **oral discussion (25%)** of an assigned article in groups, followed by submission of a **group essay** with critical analysis of the work they discussed **(25%)** one week after their discussion. The review should demonstrate their critical review of the work they discussed and apply them with daily examples. The essay should demonstrate their ability to review philosophical theories from the gender dimension and understand the main agendas in feminist philosophies that are introduced in the course, and the relevance of these theories to everyday life. The maximum length of the essay is 2,000 words, in either Chinese or English.

Reflective Auto-biographical paper + Presentation (25% + 25%)

Students are requested to submit a term paper by April 8, 2026. The topic should be relevant to the subjects of the course content in terms of the themes or the thinkers introduced. The paper will be assessed on the ability to review the feminist critiques in the contexts of Western and Chinese philosophies, to reflect on the revelation of the gender construction issues regarding their daily existence, and to compare and evaluate the contributions and the limitations of the feminist philosophies in their everyday life issues. It should be auto-biographical, merging abstract theories with concrete personal experience for sharing. The maximum length is 2,000 words in either Chinese or English. Each student will present their writing in class on April 8, 2026 or April 15, 2026.