Course Title : Gender and Philosophy
Course Code : PHI 533
Recommended Study Year : -
No. of Credits/Term : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture and Discussion
Class Contact Hours : 3
Category in Major Programme : Value Philosophy
Prerequisite(s) : -
Co-requisite(s) : -
Exclusion(s) : -
Exemption Requirement(s) : -

Brief Course Description
This subject will introduce gender debates in the field of philosophy in various aspects. It will first conduct a reflection on gender construction and the formulation of some of the main agendas in feminist thoughts. Feminists’ critique on the development of Western philosophy in relation to the notions of “masculinity” and “femininity” in the areas of epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, the mind and body issues and the problem of the self will be studied and reviewed through works of representative thinkers. The discussion will also introduce critical reflections of feminist philosophies as alternative and integrative modes of thought and the similarities and contrasts between them and Chinese philosophy. Evaluation of these philosophical debates will be initiated as well as their revelations in daily lives.

Aims
1. To introduce the gender dimension in philosophy.
2. To learn about the various critiques on Western philosophy from the gender dimension.
3. To understand the main agendas in feminist philosophies.
4. To review critically some of the thoughts of feminist philosophies.
5. To discuss the revelations of feminist philosophies in daily life.

Learning Outcomes
1. Students will be able to review philosophical theories from the gender dimension.
2. Students will be able to understand some of the main agendas in feminist philosophies.
3. Students will learn about the feminist critiques on the main areas of Western philosophy.
4. Students will be able to reflect on feminist philosophies introduced in the course and their revelations to their daily existence.
5. Students will be able to compare and evaluate the contributions and the limitations of both feminist and Western philosophies.
6. Students will be able to conduct comparative thinking on Chinese philosophy and Feminist philosophy.

Indicative Content
1. Introduction: Biology and Gender
II. Feminist critique of the History of Western Philosophy
III. Gender and Epistemology
IV. Gender and Ethics
V. Gender and Aesthetics
VI. Gender, Language and The Problem of the Self
VII. Gender and The Philosophy of the Body and Mind
VIII. Feminism and Chinese Philosophy
IX. Critical Reflection on the Limitation of Feminist Philosophies

Teaching Method
Lectures will be delivered throughout the course with student presentation and class discussion. Relevant teaching materials in the forms of literatures, films and artistic images will be utilized. Students will be given specific assignments for presentation and discussion. Course assessments will be clearly delivered in the beginning of the course. Education technology will be used and reference materials will be easily accessed.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Presentation and Discussion
Each student will participate in one presentation with clear individual assignment and division of labor. The presentation will test the student’s ability to review philosophical theories from the gender dimension and to understand the main agendas in feminist philosophies that are introduced in the course. These are aligned with learning outcomes 1 and 2.

Term Paper
Students are requested to submit a term paper in an appropriate length at the end of the course. The topic should be relevant to the subjects of the course content in terms of the themes or the thinkers introduced. Their abilities to review the feminist critiques on the main areas of Western philosophy, to reflect on the revelation of the gender construction issues regarding their daily existence, and to compare and evaluate the contributions and the limitations among the feminist, Western and Chinese philosophies will be revealed and assessed. These are aligned with learning outcomes 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Assessment
Presentation and Discussion  40%
Final Paper  60%

The course will assess students’ performance (including their understanding and critical ability) on class presentation, their preparation, creativeness in using materials to support their understanding of the presentation, and their effectiveness in conducting discussion on assigned readings and reflection of the theories as manifested in daily life. The class presentation will be assessed as 40% of their course grade. Students will submit a research paper as a final course work with topics relevant to the subject. The clarity, the critical ability as well as the scholarship of the paper will be assessed as 60% of the final grade.

Required Readings


**Supplementary Readings**


Miranda Fricker, “Knowledge as Construct: Theorizing the Role of Gender in Knowledge,”


Jane Gallop, Marianne Hirsch, and Nancy K. Miller, “Criticizing Feminist Criticism,”
