

**WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE**  
**LIBERAL ARTS DIVISION**  
**GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE**

PHI Course Prefix	190 Course Number	Feminist Philosophy Course Title	3-0 (Lec-Lab)	3 Semester Hours
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Introduces philosophical thinking and its application to issues concerning women. Explores a variety of theories by and about women. Considers a number of issues including images of women, biological vs. social conditioning, the relation to gender to class and race, women's spirituality, education, family work, violence and pornography. Men are welcome to take the course.

**TOPICAL OUTLINE**

- I. Issues addressed by Feminists
  - A. Images of women
  - B. Gender, class, race and other categories
  - C. Biological determinism vs. social construction
  - D. Essentialism vs. pluralism
  - E. Women's spirituality
  - F. School, family, work
  - G. Violence, pornography
  - H. Personal empowerment and working for social change
- II. The nature of philosophical thinking
  - A. The relationship between philosophical assumptions and empirical inquiry
  - B. The relationship between philosophical, literary, and personal expression
  - C. Theories about the world, nature, knowledge, and values
- III. Alternative Feminist theories
  - A. Liberal
  - B. Conservative
  - C. Radical
  - D. Post-modernist

**METHODS OF PRESENTATION**

1. Lecture
2. Discussion
3. Film, video and other media
4. Student presentations
5. Guest lecturers, as appropriate

**STUDENT OUTCOMES:** (*The student should . . .*)

1. identify several issues faced by women in today's world.
2. explain the alternative theories concerning these issues developed by feminist writers.
3. explain the philosophical assumptions concerning the world, nature, knowledge and values embedded in these positions.
4. recognize these theories and assumptions in speeches and writings.
5. apply these theories to new situations.
6. formulate a personal philosophy concerning these issues.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

1. Exams
2. Papers
3. Class presentations
4. Group work

TEXTBOOKS/INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Tong, Rosemarie Putnam, *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Westview Press, 2008.

Lee, Wendy. *Contemporary Feminist Theory and Activism: Six Global Issues*, Broadview Press, 2009.

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