Phil 239: Philosophy and Feminism
Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Audrey Yap (`ayap@uvic.ca`)
Office: CLE B307
Office Hours: TWF 11:30-12:20, and by appointment
Class Information: TWF 10:30-11:20 in COR A225
Course Website: Through CourseSpaces. `http://coursespaces.uvic.ca`
Textbook: Jennifer Mather Saul, *Feminism: Issues and Arguments*. Additional readings will be available online. If you notice any accessibility issues with respect to the readings or course website, please let me know.

Course Outline: This course is an introduction to feminist philosophy. Though there is no single position that characterizes all of feminism, nor a single way in which feminists contribute to philosophy, there are many areas in philosophy in which gender and other social factors are significant. As such, we will read and engage with work that shows how attentiveness to social factors can be philosophically illuminating. Even on individual issues, we will get a sense of the wide variety of feminist voices and perspectives.

Communication: Office hours are held on a drop-in basis. You do not need to make an appointment to see me during those times, although the amount of time I can spend talking to any one person during office hours can depend on how many people are waiting. If you do want to schedule an appointment outside my office hours, try emailing me with a few suggestions for times that would work for you. I'm also happy to try and answer short questions either before or after class, time permitting. In general, email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don't hear back from me after that time frame, feel free to try again in case your message went astray. When you do address me (over email or otherwise), please do so as either Professor (Prof.) Yap, or Dr. Yap. Please don't use any of Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr, for a variety of reasons. If you are ever nervous about sending me an email, or asking a question, feel free to include a picture of a puppy with your request. This will not affect whether or not I will be able to help you with your request, but will give you an excuse to look for pictures of puppies. Finally, my pronouns are she/hers. If you think I am unlikely to know the name you would prefer to be called, or the pronouns I ought to use for you, through the entry that I will see for you through CourseSpaces/UVic registration, please don't hesitate to make me aware.

Coursework: The issues and discussions will involve considerable self-reflection and consideration of ways in which our identities affect our lives. Careful writing will be emphasized. This means that we will do our best to be careful of the ways in which we talk about potentially difficult issues, as well as being philosophically careful in doing justice to the arguments and ideas with which we are engaging.

You will have three non-cumulative take home tests throughout the semester, each of which will be worth 30% of your grade. You will have two days to complete each of these tests, and the dates of distribution and required completion can be found on the schedule below. These will be graded anonymously, and the main criteria that I will use to evaluate them is philosophical clarity. Test questions will typically ask you to reconstruct and outline a central argument that we have covered during the course. You will have to make sure that you are careful to identify how the premises of the argument lead to its conclusion. I will do my best to ensure that the questions themselves give you a clear idea of grading expectations for what constitutes a complete answer to each question.

The nal 10% will be a participation grade. Every week, you will have the opportunity to

Schedule:

Week One: Jan 8, 9, 11

Topic: Privilege and Oppression
Reading: Peggy McIntosh, \Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack"

Bonita Lawrence, \Gender, Race, and the Regulation of Native Identity in Canada