Philosophy of Feminism PHIL 325/425 – WGST 325 – Fall 2019



Prof. Laura Hengehold T-Th 4:00-5:15

… I can't keep quiet, no oh oh oh oh oh oh. A one woman riot, oh oh oh oh oh oh. I can't keep quiet. For anyone. Anymore

In the last couple of years, it seems as if questions of gender, sexuality, women's rights, and women's political power are everywhere in the media. Whether philosophy begins in perplexity (as Plato believed) or in wonder (as Aristotle said), these phenomena *force us to think,* whether we are female, male, or nonbinary, cis or transgender; young or old, sexually active or just living in a world sexualized by and for others.



What is feminist philosophy? It's an attempt to analyze the concepts that we use when talking about our bodies and identities – at the most intimate level as well as the broadest political, economic and global levels. These concepts include sex and gender but are hardly limited to them, because our identities are so much more. Feminist philosophies – and there are MANY of them – are a collective effort to bring all the resources of different philosophical traditions to bear on problems of justice, power and the possibility of living a joyful life - problems that affect women, yes, but also thereby affect men and everybody else.