OBJECTIVE:

This course is an introductory course on feminist philosophy whose aim is to examine various theories that have supported feminism both as a political and a philosophical movement. Students will be taken through the philosophical principles behind three different schools of feminist inquiry--liberal, Marxist, and radical feminism. We will trace both the development of, as well as opposition to, these three schools through the writings of Wollstonecraft, Rousseau, Comte, Mill, Parsons, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Beauvoir, Freud, Firestone, et al. Discussions will center on such themes as feminism as a justice issue; the meaning and impact of patriarchy; ‘woman’ as social construction, women’s legal, social and economic position; their biology; their choices; and their self-determination.

For a more detailed description of the purpose of this course, consult the Department of Philosophy: Goals & Learning Objectives for Upper Level Philosophy Common Curriculum Courses: http://chn.loyno.edu/system/files/goalsadvancedcc_000.PDF This course is designed to satisfy Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

This course will satisfy 1) an advanced Common Curriculum course in philosophy for all students; 2) the cultural/environmental/gender/ethnics studies requirement for the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences; 3) a requirement in the “Legal Context Series” for Philosophy Pre-Law majors and minors; and 4) the “Introduction to Women’s Studies” requirement or a general elective for women’s studies minors.

TEXT:

All readings are posted on BlackBoard.

RULES & REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Preparation and Participation: Reading assignments will be announced in each class for the following class. Students are expected to come to class prepared by doing the reading. Dialogues are an integral part of this course and students are encouraged to participate without monopolizing class discussions.

2. Papers: There will be several short papers throughout the semester. Students will be given one to two weeks to complete each assignment. Late assignments will not be accepted.

3. Attendance: Attendance is required. Students should make every effort to attend all classes throughout the semester, and to submit proper documentation (doctor’s note, jury summons, etc.)
for each legitimate absence. Anyone who has accumulated 4 or more *unexcused* absences will fail the course automatically. The last day to submit excuses is May 10, the day of the final exam. Please note that the daily attendance sheets are the only accepted evidence of your attendance. As such, they are considered to be the formal attendance record for this course. Unless your signature is on the sign-up sheet, you will be counted as absent for the day. It is the students’ responsibility to sign the sheet. Class notes will *not* be accepted as proof of your attendance. Students who are tardy may sign the attendance sheet at the professor’s discretion.

4. **Make-up Test/Late Assignment Policy:** Students are allowed to take a make-up test, or to turn in a late assignment, only upon submitting official documentation (e.g., doctor’s note for absence) to warrant it.

5. **Accommodations for Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who wish to receive accommodations in this class should contact Disability Services at 865-2990 at once, so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. Disability Services are located in the Academic Resource Center, Monroe Hall 405.

6. **Academic Honesty:**

   “Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another’s sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else’s argument as your own, or even presenting someone else’s line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own.” (MLA Handbook, 1985).

The Philosophy Department’s policy on academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating on exams, etc.) will be observed in this course. The policy states that plagiarism/dishonesty cases will receive all three of the following sanctions:

- A report of the incident to the Department Chair and the Associate Dean (the latter is already required by the University Bulletin).
- A zero on the particular assignment.
- A failing grade in the course.

7. **Other Rules:** All students are required to show up to class on time. The use of a computer for notes-taking is allowed by permission only. Please turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices during class. Anyone who is caught texting or using a computer without permission will be asked to leave the class—and will be counted as absent—for that day.

**COURSE GRADE**

Final grade for the course will be determined by the following distribution: papers, 30%; two tests, 30% each; attendance and class Participation, 10%.
TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Part One: Introduction

Michele Rosaldo, “Woman, Culture and Society: A Theoretical Overview”

Part Two: Liberal Feminism

1. Social Construction of Knowledge
   - Auguste Comte, “The Influence of Positivism Upon Women” & “Catechism of Positive Religion”
   - Londa Schibinger, “Skeletons in the Closet”

2. Women’s social and legal position
   - Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Women and the Rights of Man”

3. The Debate over Education
   - Hannah More, “The Practical Use of Female Knowledge”
   - Mary Wollstonecraft, from Vindications of the Rights of Women
   - Catherine Hall, “
   - Marquis de Sade, “Philosophy in the Bedroom”

4. On Equal Opportunity and Rights
   - John Stuart Mill, from The Subjection of Women
   - Margaret Adams, “The Compassion Trap”
   - Shulamith Firestone, “(Male) Culture”
Part Three: Functionalism vs. Marxist Feminism

1. The Functionalist’s Critique of Liberal Feminism
   - Talcott Parsons, “The Normal American Family”

2. Patriarchy as Structural Problem
   - Karl Marx, preface to *The Communist Manifesto*; Vladimir Lenin, “The Emancipation of Women”

3. On Productive and Reproductive Labor
   - Margaret Benston, “The Political Economy of Women’s Liberation”

Part Four: Radical Feminism

1. Sexuality and the Female Body
   - Sigmund Freud, “Femininity” and “Female Sexuality”
   - Shulamith Firestone, “Freudianism: The Misguided Feminism”

2. Liberation from Female Biology
   - Simone de Beauvoir, “Myth and Reality”
   - Shulamith Firestone, “The Ultimate Revolution”

Part Five: Conclusion and Reflection

- Sandra Lee Bartky, “Toward a Phenomenology of Feminist Consciousness”