Course Description
Is there an essential difference between women and men? If so, what is the source of this difference (e.g., the body or the soul?) and what does the difference imply in moral, social, and political terms? If not, how are the apparent differences produced? If the “facts” about gender are social and cultural products, then what does this imply about other (apparent) facts about the world? How do questions about race and ethnicity conflict or overlap with those about gender? Is there a “normal” way of being “queer”? Should these questions be applied globally? If not, why not? If so, how? This course introduces students to philosophy and feminism through a critical discussion of these and related questions. Assigned materials include historical and contemporary texts, the arts, and lectures on Columbia campus.

Course Goals
Learn what philosophy is and how philosophy relates to problems in feminism and gender studies.
Develop critical and analytical reading and writing skills.
Explore fundamental philosophical questions about the construction of the human subject, the universality of moral concepts, the nature of bias, and the possibility of knowledge and/or objectivity in science.
Learn how to use the powerful tools of gender and philosophy to dissect contemporary and historical materials.
Reconsider basic assumptions about who you are and what want to be!

Readings
Because we will read and discuss particular passages in class, it is important that you have HARD COPIES OF REQUIRED READINGS with you. Some assigned readings are ONLY available in Courseworks. Find them in the Assignments section, listed alphabetically by author’s name. The following books are required and available at Book Culture (on 112th b/w Brdwy and Amsterdam) and in the reserve room at Butler Library:
Miriam Schneir, ed., Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings
Plato, The Last Days of Socrates (Penguin) [or another version of Plato’s Phaedo will do]
Elaine Pagels, Adam, Eve, and the Serpent (Vintage)
Thomas Laqueur, Making Sex: Body, Gender... (Harvard)
Michael Foucault, The History of Sexuality, vol. I
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity
Toni Morrison, Race-ing Justice, En-gendering Power (Pantheon)
Michael Warner, The Trouble with Normal (Free Press)

Assignments
Your primary goal is to read and think about the assigned materials, and to discuss them in class. This means coming to class prepared! There may be quizzes.
Three one-page, single-spaced papers
One 5-page double-spaced paper
Final examination
Two lecture or art analyses: attend a lecture at Columbia (Barnard/Columbia/Law/anywhere on campus), visit a museum, or go to a theater or musical event and write a 300-400 word account and analysis.

Grades
One in-class essay(s) and two two-page papers 36%; one five-page paper 25%
Lecture analyses combined with class attendance and participation 14%
Final Exam 25%

Lecture Topics and Readings
A. Essentialism: A Philosophical and Historical Perspective
Week 1 Introduction to Course // The Origins of Essentialism.
9/7: Introduction//Mind-Body Dualism.
Reading: Plato’s Phaedo in The Last Days of Socrates (another edition of the Phaedo is fine).
Week 2: Mind, Body, Nature, and Truth
9/12: Reading: Pagels’ Adam, Eve, and the Serpent, ch. 1 (all), ch. 2 (pp. 32-43), ch. 3 (64-77).
9/14: Reading: Pagels’ Adam, Eve, ch. 4 (all), ch. 6 (all).
Week 3 Women’s Souls and Virtue// Bodies and Property
9/19: Reading in Schneir: Wollstonecraft (pp. 5-16); Grimke (pp. 35-48); Sojourner Truth, pp. 92-98.
9/21: Reading in Schneir, Goldman (308-24); Engels (pp. 189-204).
Sunday Morning Assignment in the Metropolitan Museum
Week 4:
9/26: Review based on Museum Trip
9/28 In-class Essays

B. Essentialism: Construction and Critique
Week 4 Foucault, *The Discourse of the Normal and the Perverse.
10/3 - 5: Reading Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, Parts 1, 2, 3.
Week 5 Constructing Sexual Difference.
10/10: Reading: Laqueur’s *Making Sex*, ch. 1-2, 3 (quick read w/ special attention on pp. 69, 82, 88, 98-99).
10/12: Reading: Laqueur, ch.5 (pp. 149-63), ch.6 (pp. 193-207; 243).
First Analysis Due In Class, First Paper Assignment Distributed.
Week 6 Constructing Gender
10/17-19: Reading: Butler, *Gender Trouble*, preface, ch. 1, ch. 3, § Concluding Unscientific Postscript to end
Week 7 The Normal
FIRST PAPER DUE by 5:00 Friday

C. Ethnicity, Gender, and Truth
Week 8 Race, Gender, and Power.
Week 9 Race-ing Objectivity
11/7 NO CLASS (Election Day)
Second Paper Assignment Distributed

D. Feminism, Gender, and the Global Context
Week 10 Constructing the Global Subjet and Re-orienting Desire
SECOND PAPER DUE by 5:00 Friday
Week 11 Globalizing Desire
11/23 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

E. Feminism, Objectivity, and Science
Week 12 Feminism, Objectivity, and Knowledge.
11/28: Reading: Langton (ch. 7), Courseworks
11/30: Fricker (ch.8), and Wylie (ch. 9), Courseworks Final Paper Assignment Distributed
Second Lecture Analysis Due Friday, 4:00
Week 13 Feminism and Nature.
12/6-7 Haslanger (ch.6 of *Cambridge Companion*/Courseworks); Lloyd, “Objectivity and the Double Standard” (Pay special attention to the first two sections and the last section, Courseworks).
Week 14 The Abuses of Essentialism Reconsidered // Conclusions.
Final PAPER DUE at 3:00, Thursday, December 15.
REMEMBER: 3-hour EXAM during exam period.