

Navigating this student-guided course

Feminist Philosophy
Anna-Bella Sicilia

Your grades in the class are broken down in the following assignments:

Weekly reading comprehension quizzes	26
Reading Reaction	10
Papers	45
Movie Analysis	19
Total	100

→ These quizzes are set in stone.

} But for the remaining three assignments, you have the opportunity to choose among several assignment options. This are student-guided (SG) assignments.

! Reading Reaction (10 points)

What?

Each student will have an opportunity to present their thoughts on one of the course readings (we'll sign up for slots in a random order, so you'll get to choose a reading you are interested in).

The Reading Reaction has two parts: (1) *Summary* (What are the big ideas? What are the views this author is arguing against? What is *her* view?) and (2) *Reaction* (What questions did this reading make you think of? Does anything strike you as wrong, incomplete, or obvious? What feelings came up while you were reading it? Did it make you feel stressed? Curious? Confused?)

Why?

Presenting a *summary* of a reading forces you to make sure you are tracking what's going on.

Thinking about your *reaction* to a philosophical idea can give rise to new insights, help your self-awareness (what sort of ideas tend to make you check out? What sorts of ideas keep you engaged?), and remind us of the fact that lots of philosophical ideas have personal stakes.

! Reading Reaction (10 points)

Option 1: Class presentation

If you choose this option, you'll present your Reading Reaction to the whole class and we'll have a group discussion about it.

Those who want to do a class presentation will sign up first for their presentation slots, since they are generously agreeing to present to the whole class.

Option 2: Individual meeting

If you choose this option, you'll present your Reading Reaction to me individually during office hours.

Folks who want to do an individual meeting will sign up for their slots *after* those who want to do a class presentation. You must complete the individual meeting within two weeks of the relevant class period.

Option 3: Reaction journal

If you choose this option, you'll write down your Reading Reaction and submit it by 11:59pm the night before the relevant class.

For this option, you'll do this for two (instead of one) readings, since you will not have to do a presentation. You can also pick any two readings, even if other folks are signed up to present.



Papers (45 points)

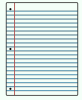
What?

We'll write three papers in the course. These papers require you to summarize arguments from the class and to weigh in on philosophical debates.

Why?

Not only are you presenting a summary of views from the course to solidify your understanding of the material, but you're taking time to make sure you're doing so as carefully and clearly as possible.

Weighing in on the debates means advancing your own, original ideas. This makes you a part of the conversation rather than a mere observer. In other words, you will actually get to *do* philosophy.



Papers (45 points)

Option 1: In your own words

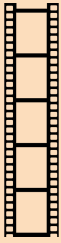
If you choose this option for a paper, you'll write it *in your own words*. This means you won't directly quote or paraphrase from the readings, nor will you use ChatGPT at any stage of the writing process. You'll simply write the papers based on your understanding of the course readings.

If you go this route, you're agreeing to have the paper tested with at least two GPT-detection softwares if it bears the marks of AI-produced work.

Option 2: With ChatGPT

If you choose this option, you'll write the paper with the assistance of ChatGPT. You can use Chat to brainstorm or even copy and paste part of its answers directly into the essay - it's all fair game!

Along with the paper, you'll submit a reflection about the use of Chat to write the essay. How did you use it and why? Do you think it improved the paper? Do you think it improved you as a student?



Movie Analysis (19 points)

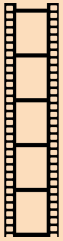
What?

At the end of the term, you'll watch a movie with feminist philosophical themes and analyze it in terms of the topics discussed in the course. I'll give you some options for movies you can watch, or you can pick a movie you have seen and think is a good candidate (if you do this, I'll have to approve your selection).

Why?

This is your chance to apply some of the ideas from the course to a piece of culture. It will show you how a deeper understanding of feminist philosophy can make you a sharper critic of media, and of the people and forces in your own life. It will give you more agency over the messages you are absorbing from art, and make movies for interesting to critically examine.

Also..... movies are fun.



Movie Analysis (19 points)

Option 1: Class presentation

If you take this option, you'll present your analysis to the class in the format of a 20-minute lecture (a Powerpoint is optional but not required). We'll use the last week of class for these presentations.

Option 2: Written analysis

If you take this option, you'll submit your written analysis by [date].

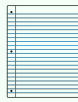
Option 3: Get creative!!

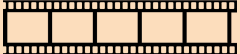
Have another idea for how to present your analysis? Want to write a song, poem, painting, or interpretive dance?

If you'd like to take the option to 'get creative,' please reach out to me with your idea to get it approved. You'll need to explain how you plan to go about it, if you'd like to present it to other students, and why you think this format makes sense as a medium for these ideas (and is worth about 19 points).

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Reading Reaction (10) !

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Class presentation

Option 2:
Individual meeting

Option 3:
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Option 3:
Get creative!

Option 1: In your own words

Option 2: with ChatGPT

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