DESCRIPTION:
The topic for this term is feminist epistemology and philosophy of science. Questions we will consider include: Is rationality gendered? Are scientific conceptions of objectivity “masculine”? What could it mean to make such claims, and how could they be justified? What should a feminist conception of knowledge look like? In addressing these questions we’ll explore the numerous ways that gender, gender roles, and gender identity influence the construction of knowledge and the representation of objectivity. We will investigate competing views about knowledge construction --specifically, empiricism, standpoint theory, and postmodernism-- by considering, among other things, how they have informed empirical research in the social sciences, biology, and medicine. Classes will be conducted as interactive lecture/discussions.

CLASS MEETS: T-Th 1-2:30, 2271 Angell Hall

REQUIREMENTS:
Three (of 4) short homework assignments 15%
Two 6-8 page papers 50% (25% each)
Final exam 30%
Class participation, improvement, etc. 5%

Graduate students may submit a term paper in lieu of the final if a proposal is approved by the instructor.

PREREQUISITES: Students should have a background (at least 2 courses) in either philosophy or women's studies.

TEXTS:

Texts are available at Shaman Drum. A coursepack of essays will also be available at Michigan Document Service. (MDS is located on S. University above Ulrich's Electronics. Phone: 662-4530.) Assignments marked with a ‘•’ will be in the coursepack. Recommended readings will be available through the course web page and on electronic reserves at the Undergraduate Library (if they are not available in the texts. The reserve room URL is:
http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Reserves
# COURSE SCHEDULE

## I. INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGY AND FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

| Sept. 9 | Sandra Harding, *The Science Question in Feminism*, Ch. 1-3. |

## II. FEMINIST EMPIRICISM/FEMINIST NATURALISM: Feminist Science v. Bad Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 11</th>
<th>Helen Longino, <em>Science as Social Knowledge</em> (SSK), Ch. 1.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dorothy Smith, &quot;Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology&quot; in F&amp;S, pp. 17-26.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Elizabeth Anderson, &quot;Feminist Epistemology: An Interpretation and a Defense&quot; <em>Hypatia</em> 10:3 (Summer 1995) pp. 50-84.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Elisabeth Lloyd, &quot;Pre-Theoretical Assumptions in Evolutionary Explanations of Female Sexuality,&quot; in F&amp;S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## III. USES AND ABUSES OF ANALOGY AND METAPHOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 25</th>
<th>Genevieve Lloyd, &quot;Reason, Science, and the Domination of Matter&quot; (F&amp;S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIRST HOMEWORK DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Evelyn Fox Keller, &quot;Language and Ideology in Evolutionary Theory: Reading Cultural Norms into Natural Law,&quot; in F&amp;S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Nancy L. Stepan, &quot;Race and Gender: The Role of Analogy in Science,&quot; in F&amp;S.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IV. IS OBJECTIVITY MASCULINE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Longino SSK, pp. 204-209.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FIRST PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. FEMINIST STANDPOINT THEORY

Oct. 9  Sandra Harding, SQF, Ch. 6.


SECOND HOMEWORK DUE.


recommended:


• Sally Haslanger "Ontology and Social Construction" Philosophical Topics 23:2 (Fall 1995), pp. 95-126.


FIRST PAPER DUE.


VI. FEMINIST POSTMODERNISM

Oct. 30  Donna Haraway, "Situated Knowledges" in F&S. THIRD HOMEWORK DUE.

recommended: Sandra Harding SQF, Ch. 7.


recommended:
• Susan Bordo, "Feminism, Postmodernism, and Gender Skepticism," in Anne Herrmann and Abigail Stewart, eds., Theorizing Feminism (Boulder, CO: Westview 1994), pp. 458-481.
VII. FEMINIST EMPIRICISM (AGAIN): Rethinking Scientific Ideals

Nov. 13  
- Elisabeth Lloyd, "Feminism as Method: What Scientists Get That Philosophers Don't" *Philosophical Topics* 23:2 (Fall 1995), pp. 189-220.

SECOND PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED.

Nov. 18  
- Helen Longino, SSK, Ch. 4-5.

FOURTH HOMEWORK DUE.

Nov. 20  
- Helen Longino, SSK, Ch. 8-10.

Nov. 25  

Nov. 27  
- Thanksgiving break

VIII. CRITIQUES OF FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGY

Dec. 2  


Dec. 4  


SECOND PAPER DUE.

Dec. 9  
- Final class

Thursday, December 18, 4-6pm: FINAL EXAM