

Philosophy of Gender

Time and Place

Mondays 10.30-13.00

Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen,

South Campus, Karen Blixens Plads 16, Room 6B.0.22.

Online Platform:

<https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/2188071867> (<https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/2188071867>)
(<https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/2188071867>)

Course Description

This course constructs a philosophical framework for the interdisciplinary examination of gender. Against a historical outline of the development of contemporary gender studies, we examine biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives on gender. These theoretical perspectives are put into discussion with ethical issues concerning sexuality, selfhood, personal identity, and autonomy.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to make sense of the interdisciplinary examination of gender and discuss the historical, theoretical, and ethical aspects of what it means to exist with a gender identity. Our identity is rooted in our experience of gender. This experience is deeply personal, and yet there are biological and societal aspects to the experience of gender that complicate and challenge our sense of identity. The course will provide you with a philosophical foundation for thinking critically about the complexity of human experience of gender. The most important elements of this philosophical foundation are a sense of history, conceptual clarity, and an understanding of interdisciplinary methodology.

Faculty

René Rosfort, PhD & MA (University of Copenhagen, 2008 & 2003). Associate Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen). For more information, see [here](http://teol.ku.dk/skc/english/staff/?pure=en/persons/77458) 
(<http://teol.ku.dk/skc/english/staff/?pure=en/persons/77458>)

Office Hours by Appointment

Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

South Campus, Karen Blixens Plads 16, Room 6B.1.19

Textbooks (both available digitally via The Royal Library)

- Susan Kingsley Kent. *Gender and History*. London: Palgrave Macmillan 2011
- Tina Chanter. *Gender: Key Concepts in Philosophy*. London: Continuum 2006.

Expectations of the students

The students are expected to have prepared themselves carefully for each class, that is, to have done the required reading and to think about issues, problems, and questions to be discussed in class. Moreover, the students are expected to engage in the discussions as well as the group work, and to make use of both the theoretical tools and the historical background when discussing the issues in question.

Requirements for DIS-students

For undergraduate students (bachelor students):

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). The syllabus volume and content are determined by the teacher, and two papers are to be submitted on Absalon of 4-5 pages each, as well as a final major assignment, which has a size of 19,200-24,000 characters, i.e. 8-10 pages, and based on 400-500 pages of literature.

Requirements for KU-students (both Danish students and Exchange students)

For undergraduate students (bachelor students):

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). A final major assignment, which has a size of 24.000-28.800 characters, i.e. 10-12 pages, and based on 400-500 pages literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments is assessed by the teacher and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: A final assignment assignment that has a scope of 36,000-48,000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages, and based on 1,200 to 1,500 pages of literature. The teacher must approve the subject and literature.

For graduate students (kandidat/master students):

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). A final paper of 36.000-48-000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages, and based on 800-1000 pages of literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignment is assessed by the teacher, and a grade is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: An assignment of 60,000-72,000 characters, i.e. 25-30 pages, and based on approx. 1,500 pages of literature. The teacher must approve the subject and literature.

Exam Dates (final paper)

DIS-students: December 10, 2026 at midnight (that is, 23.59)

KU- and Exchange-students: December 17, 2026 at noon (that is, 11.59)

Grading (only for DIS-students)

2 short assignments of 4-5 pages (each of which count 20% of the grade)	40%
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A final paper of 8-10 pages	45%
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Engaged participation	15%
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GAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence)

The use of GAI (Generative Artificial Intelligence) is not permitted in this course.

Plagiarism Policy

In accordance with UCPH rules for academic ethics, there will be a no tolerance policy towards cheating and plagiarism.

Skjul alle

Vis fremgang

↗ Eksporter fagindhold

✓ Offentliggør alle ▾

+ Modul



⋮ ▾ Session 1. Introduction: The Concept, the Experience, and the Ethics of Gender



Required Reading



Chanter. Gender (2006). Introduction + Ch. 1 ↗

(<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=8>)



Optional Reading



Heyes. Changing Race, Changing Sex. The Ethics of Self-Transformation (2006) ↗
(<https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1111/j.1467-9833.2006.00332.x>)



Hacking. Making Up People (1985).pdf



Moi. I am Not A Feminist, But...(2006).pdf



Additional Reading



Mikkola. Feminist Perspectives on Sex and Gender (2017) ↗
(<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-gender/>)



Powerpoint



Session 1 (August 24).pdf



Recording



Session 1 (August 24)



▼ Session 2. Subjection and Dissent: Histories of Gender



Required Reading



[Kent. Gender and History \(2012\). Introduction + Ch. 1 & 2](https://www.bloomsburycollections-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/monograph-detail?docid=b-9781350488434&pdfid=9781350488434.0005.pdf&tocid=b-9781350488434-0000107) 
(<https://www.bloomsburycollections-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/monograph-detail?docid=b-9781350488434&pdfid=9781350488434.0005.pdf&tocid=b-9781350488434-0000107>)



Optional Reading



[Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 1](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s) 
(<http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s>)



[Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 2](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s) 
(<http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s>)





[Witt&Shapiro. Feminist Histroy of Philosophy_\(2021\)_](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-femhist/) 
(<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-femhist/>)



Additional Reading



Sweet. Is History History (August 2022).pdf



Bell. Two Cheer for Presentism (August 2022).pdf



Scott. History Is Always About Politics (August 2022).pdf



Powerpoint



Session 2 (Augsut 31).pdf



Recording



Session 2 (August 31)



▼ Session 3. Gendered History: Structure, Power, and Politics



Required Reading



[Kent. Gender and History_\(2012\). Chapter 3 & 4](https://www.bloomsburycollections-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/monograph-detail?docid=b-9781350488434&pdfid=9781350488434.ch-003.pdf&tocid=b-9781350488434-chapter3) 
([https://www-bloomsburycollections-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/monograph-detail?docid=b-9781350488434&pdfid=9781350488434.ch-003.pdf&tocid=b-9781350488434-chapter3](https://www.bloomsburycollections-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/monograph-detail?docid=b-9781350488434&pdfid=9781350488434.ch-003.pdf&tocid=b-9781350488434-chapter3))



Optional Reading



[Bach. Gender Is a Natural Kind with a Historical Essence \(2012\)](#)



[_ \(https://search-ebscohost-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login.aspx?direct=true&db=hlh&AN=72371133&site=ehost-live\)](https://search-ebscohost-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login.aspx?direct=true&db=hlh&AN=72371133&site=ehost-live)



[Gray, Why the humanities can't be saved \(2019\)](#)



[\(https://unherd.com/2019/08/why-the-humanities-cant-be-saved/\)](https://unherd.com/2019/08/why-the-humanities-cant-be-saved/)



[Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 3](#)



[_ \(http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s\)](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s)



[Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 4](#)



[_ \(http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s\)](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s)



Additional Reading



[Chanter. Gender \(2006\). Ch. 2](#)



[_ \(https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=38\)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=38)



[Scott. Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis \(1986\)](#)



[_ \(https://search-ebscohost-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=5637017&site=ehost-live\)](https://search-ebscohost-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=5637017&site=ehost-live)



[Baskin. Academia's Holy Warroirs \(2019\)](#)



[_ \(https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/20190912-academias-holy-warriors?key=mi0Bff1vaLHL09_no2EmgyubkYGaE_Z0wYeVvMXRpBMlzD16oZI7OvOuo9-6VB1CQ1pUYTE5WnhOR1J5VUFMaG1IRk1TdExEQ1VlbkRnQXRiYkZkdzh4VER0MA\)](https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/20190912-academias-holy-warriors?key=mi0Bff1vaLHL09_no2EmgyubkYGaE_Z0wYeVvMXRpBMlzD16oZI7OvOuo9-6VB1CQ1pUYTE5WnhOR1J5VUFMaG1IRk1TdExEQ1VlbkRnQXRiYkZkdzh4VER0MA)



	The Threat From the Illiberal Left (2021)_  com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/docview/2569044718/fulltextPDF/7C4801089D064B6FPQ/1?accountid=13607)		
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	Out of the Academy (2021)_  com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/docview/2569044550/fulltextPDF/C12E3F99BD3B4584PQ/184?accountid=13607)		
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1st Short Assignment		
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 1st Short Assignment (only for DIS-students, that is, not for KU-and Exchange students)			
27. Sep 100 point			

	▼ Session 4. A Problem of Identity		
			

Required Reading		
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	Chanter. Gender (2006). Ch. 3 & 4  (https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=63)		
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Optional Reading		
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 [Alcoff. Visible Identities \(2006\). Ch. 6](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/DOI:10.1093/0195137345.003.0006)   

 [Hancock. Intersectionality: An Intellectual History \(2016\). Ch. 1](https://www-oxfordscholarship-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199370368.01.0001/acprof-9780199370368-chapter-1)   

Additional Reading



 [Haslanger&Sveinsdóttir. Feminist Metaphysics \(2017\)](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-metaphysics/)   

 [Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 5](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s)   

 [Laqueur. Making Sex \(1990\). Ch. 6](http://hdl.handle.net.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/2027/fulcrum.x920fx50s)   

Powerpoint



▼ Session 5. Biology of Gender: The Way of Nature



Required Reading



 [Campell. A Mind of Her Own \(2013\). Ch. 1](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199609543.003.0001)   

Optional Reading



[Hines. Gender Development and the Brain \(2011\). !\[\]\(8b57f0e15e7dda24cf9977561475f640_img.jpg\)](https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1146/annurev-neuro-061010-113654)
(<https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1146/annurev-neuro-061010-113654>)



[Tooby&Cosmides. The Past Explain the Present \(1990\). !\[\]\(ceb7cef9f9d693d102dfe501130037c6_img.jpg\)](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0162-3095(90)90017-Z)
([http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0162-3095\(90\)90017-Z](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0162-3095(90)90017-Z))



Additional Reading



[Crasnow et al. Feminist Perspectives on Science \(2015\). !\[\]\(cf907b6581366ac39ee91719072e5253_img.jpg\)](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-science/)
(<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-science/>)



[Dobzhansky. Nothing in Biology Makes Sense except in the Light of Evolution \(1973\). !\[\]\(8b489669e5348baffa74b0cc87030268_img.jpg\)](https://www-jstor-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/stable/4444260?sid=primo&origin=crossref&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents) (https://www-jstor-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/stable/4444260?sid=primo&origin=crossref&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents)



Powerpoint



▼ Session 6. Sociology of Gender: An Ordered Society



Required Reading



 [Witt. The Metaphysics of Gender \(2011\). Ch. 2](#) 
(<http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199740413.003.0002>)  

 [Sveinsdóttir. The Social Construction of Human Kinds \(2013\)](#)
(<https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/doi/full/10.1111/j.1527-2001.2012.01317.x>)  

Optional Reading

 

 [Haraway. Situated Knowledges \(1988\)](#) 
(<http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.2307/3178066>)  

 Hacking. The Social Construction of What, Ch. 1
(1999).pdf   

Additional Reading

 

 [Allen. Feminist Perspectives on Power \(2016\)](#) 
(<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminist-power/>)  

Powerpoint

 

▼ Session 7. Phenomenology of Gender: Shame and Subjectivation

 

Required Reading

 



[Heinämaa. A Phenomenology of Sexual Difference \(2011\)](https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1007/978-90-481-3783-1_9) [\(https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1007/978-90-481-3783-1_9\)](https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1007/978-90-481-3783-1_9)



Tosh. Psychology and Gender Dysphoria (2017). Chapter 3 (pp. 47-76).pdf



Optional Reading



[Gallagher & Zahavi. The Phenomenological Mind \(2012\). Ch. 2](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?ppg=25&docID=1108506&tm=1535526324277) [\(https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?ppg=25&docID=1108506&tm=1535526324277\)](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?ppg=25&docID=1108506&tm=1535526324277)



[Butler. How Can I Deny That These Hands and This Body Are Mine \(1997\)](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20686081) [\(http://www.jstor.org/stable/20686081\)](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20686081)



Additional Reading



[Potter. Gender \(2004\)](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195149531.003.0018) [\(http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195149531.003.0018\)](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195149531.003.0018)



Powerpoint



Recording



▼ Session 8. Queering Experience: A Sense of and for Difference



Required Reading



	Butler. Bodies that Matter (1993). Ch. 8 		
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	Butler. Undoing Gender (2004). Ch. 1 		
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Optional Reading



	Bettcher. Trans identities and first-person authority (2009) 		
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	Ahmed. Orientations. Towards a Queer Pheomenology (2006) 		
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Additional Reading



	Musser. Gender and Queer Theory (2017) 		
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Powerpoint



2nd Short Assignment



	2nd Short Assignment (only for DIS-students, that is, not for KU-and Exchange students)			
15. Nov 100 point				

▼ Session 9: Who am I? Gender and Identity	✓ ▼ + ⋮
Required Reading	✓ ⋮
Schechtman. The Narrative Self (2011) (http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199548019.003.0018)	✓ ⋮
Optional reading	✓ ⋮
McNay. Gender and Narrative Identity (1999) (https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1080/13569319908420801)	✓ ⋮
Strawson. Against Narrativity (2004) (https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1111/j.1467-9329.2004.00264.x)	✓ ⋮
Zahavi. Self and Other: The Limits of Narrative Understanding (2007)	✓ ⋮
Additional Reading	✓ ⋮
Mackenzie&Poltera. Narrative Integration, Fragmented Selves, and Autonomy (2010) (https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1111/j.1527-2001.2009.01083.x)	✓ ⋮
Chanter. Gender (2006). Ch. 5 (https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=97)	✓ ⋮
McNay. Having It Both Ways (2006) (https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1177%2F0263276403206001)	✓ ⋮

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▼ Session 10. Who am I to You? Gender and Dehumanization



Required Reading



Mikkola. The Wrong of Injustice (2016). Ch. 6

([http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?](http://ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190601072.001.0001)

[url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190601072.001.0001](http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780190601072.001.0001))



Optional Reading



Gervais, Holland&Dodd. My Eyes Are Up Here (2013)

([https://link-springer-](https://link-springer-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/article/10.1007/s11199-013-0316-x)

[com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/article/10.1007/s11199-013-0316-x](https://link-springer-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/article/10.1007/s11199-013-0316-x))



Tripler&Ruscher. Dehumanizing Representations of Women

(2017) ([https://doi-](https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1080/09589236.2017.1411790)

[org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1080/09589236.2017.1411790](https://doi-org.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1080/09589236.2017.1411790))



Additional Reading



Chanter. Gender (2006). Ch. 6 & 7

([https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=118)

[docID=742610&ppg=118](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/kbdk/reader.action?docID=742610&ppg=118))



Winter et al. Synergies in Health and Human Rights: A Call to Action to Improve Transgender Health (2016)

([https://www-](https://www-sciencedirect-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1016/j.sheh.2016.05.001)

[sciencedirect-](https://www-sciencedirect-com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/10.1016/j.sheh.2016.05.001)



[com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/science/article/pii/S0140673616306535?
via%3Dihub\)](https://com.ep.fjernadgang.kb.dk/science/article/pii/S0140673616306535?via%3Dihub)

Powerpoint



▼ Session 11. An Ethics of Gender: Our Struggle for Autonomy



Required Reading



Irigaray. An Ethics of Sexual Difference (1993).pdf



Optional Reading



[Martin, "Introduction: Luce Irigaray and the Culture of
Difference" \(2003\) ↗ \(https://journals-sagepub-com.kb-
ku.idm.oclc.org/doi/abs/10.1177/02632764030203001\)](https://journals-sagepub-com.kb-ku.idm.oclc.org/doi/abs/10.1177/02632764030203001)



Additional Reading



[Stoljar. Feminist Perspectives on Autonomy \(2013\) ↗
\(https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-autonomy/\)](https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-autonomy/)



Powerpoint



Recording



▼ Short Assignments		✓ ▼
		+ ⋮

▼ Final Paper		✓ ▼
		+ ⋮