

# **POLS / GNDR 5140: Feminist Political Theory**

*Spring 2025*

## **Course Description**

Does gender matter? Is it politically significant? Why? This course focuses on theories that place gender at the center of analysis in order to investigate social practices, norms, and institutions. After becoming familiar with some foundational concepts in feminist political thought, the class explores three domains of analysis: reproduction; work and family; and embodiment. Over the semester, we will become acquainted with feminist political theory as a varied and contested field of inquiry, marked by lively debate and disagreement.

## **Important Details**

- 3 credits
- This course is open to anyone in any major
- No prerequisites are required

## **Course Outcomes and Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain key concepts in feminist political thought, including patriarchy; oppression; power; identity; intersectionality; and revolution
- Understand and evaluate key arguments within feminism concerning the sources of gendered inequality and the preferred strategies for redressing them
- Think carefully about the relationship between gendered categories and other identity markers, including race, nationality, sexuality, class, and ethnicity.
- Think, speak and write critically about the ideas explored in the course.

## **Course Requirements**

Attendance (this is an in-person class requiring daily attendance) – 10%

Participation – 10%

Unannounced In-Class Quizzes (8-10 over the semester, lowest 2 scores dropped) – 10%

Midterm Essay – 25% (DUE FRI 3/7)

Final Essay – 25% (DUE FRI 4/25)

Group Presentation on a Cultural Artifact – 20% (DUE 4/15 and 4/17)

## **Grading Scale**

A	100%	to 94%
A-	< 94%	to 90%
B+	< 90%	to 87%
B	< 87%	to 84%
B-	< 84%	to 80%
C+	< 80%	to 77%

C	< 77%	to 74%
C-	< 74%	to 70%
D+	< 70%	to 67%
D	< 67%	to 64%
D-	< 64%	to 61%
F	< 61%	to 0%

## University Policies

### Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access  
801-581-5020  
[disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)  
65 Student Services Building  
201 S 1460 E  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### Safety at the U

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu). To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety  
801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)  
[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)  
1735 E. S. Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## **Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

801-581-8365

[oeo.utah.edu](http://oeo.utah.edu)

135 Park Building

201 Presidents' Cir.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

Office of the Dean of Students

801-581-7066

[deanofstudents.utah.edu](http://deanofstudents.utah.edu)

270 Union Building

200 S. Central Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)

1735 E. S. Campus Dr.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

Center for Campus Wellness

801-581-7776

[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)

350 Student Services Building

201 S. 1460 E.

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

## **Academic Misconduct**

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

*"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).