

TPS 1465 Special Topics Course  
**Concepts of Community: Pedagogy Between Politics & Ethics**  
Thursdays, 5-8 pm OISE room 10-200

Course Instructor:  
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*Course Synopsis:* Within philosophy of education, as well as within the broader constellation of research in education, the concept of community is frequently used. While many scholarly endeavours – whether based in theoretical approaches or in the social sciences – have recourse to the concept of community to ground, orient, or validate their respective projects, few students are given the opportunity to engage directly with the broad range of concepts of community within the traditions of the theoretical humanities and social sciences. This course is designed as a broad overview of some of the more consequential investigations into the concepts of community to broaden our understandings of this complex notion and its historical and material forms, and offer a pluralistic approach to the question of ‘what is held in common.’ Our aims in this course are to situate various concepts of community in their historical moment; to analyze their pedagogical features; to examine in detail their contributions and limitations with respect to contemporary practices in education; and, to complicate any simple recourse to universal articulations or applications of this fundamental philosophical concept.

### **Required Texts**

Course Reading Packet (available for purchase in class)

### **Books Available for Purchase at Toronto Women’s Bookstore**

#### **Required Reading**

Catherine MacKinnon, excerpts, *Towards a Feminist Theory of State* (Harvard University Press, 1989)

Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1963)

Monique Wittig, *Les Guerrilleres* (Viking Press, 1971—find used online, or new Univ of Illinois 2007)

Aron Douglass Castlin, *Who Am Eye: A Spokenword Memoir* (Truth Spear Publishing, 2009).

### **Recommended for Purchase/Required Readings**

- Jacques Ranciere, *The Politics of Aesthetics* (Continuum Press, 2004)
- Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, translated by George Schwab (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).
- Susan Okin, *Women in Western Political Thought*, (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1979).
- Iris Marion Young, *Inclusion and democracy*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979/1992)
- Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the politics of difference*, (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, c1990.)
- Eleanor Kaufmann, *The Delirium of Praise* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).
- Michel Foucault and Maurice Blanchot, *Foucault/Blanchot* (New York: Zone Books, 1990).
- Jose Munoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* 2009 (selections)
- Luce Irigaray, excerpts from *This Sex Which is Not One* (Cornell University Press, 1985) (Editions de Minuit, 1977)
- Hope: New Philosophies for Change*, ed. Mary Zournazi, (Routledge, 2003)

### **Course & Reading Schedule**

#### **week 001 7 Jan — Introduction (MB1/ET2)**

*This week will include an overview of the course, introducing the vector of community, politics, pedagogy, and ethics as a fourfold way of seeing the elements involved in analyzing all questions raised by the course, and the logic of the course design focus on issues of self-discipline; design; violence; affirmation; and pleasure as modes of constructing and shaping communities and peoples.*

#### **week 002 14 Jan — The Distribution of the Sensible (ET1/MB2)**

##### Part One (ET)

Jacques Ranciere, “The Distribution of the Sensible,” in *The Politics of Aesthetics*, translated by Gabriel Rockhill (New York: Continuum, 2004), pp. 7-46.

##### Part Two (MB)

Nancy Fraser, [Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy](#) *Social Text*, No. 25/26 (1990), pp. 56-80

Mari J. Matsuda, *Where is Your Body? and Other Essays on Race, Gender and the Law* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1997)

Marilyn Frye, “To Be and Be Seen,” from *The Politics of Reality* (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 1983)

Maria Lugones, “Playfulness, 'World'-Travelling, and Loving Perception.”  
<http://isc.temple.edu/shea/lugones.pdf>

Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools” from *Sister/Outsider* (Berkeley: Crossing Press, 1984, 2007)

<http://lists.econ.utah.edu/pipermail/margins-to-centre/2006-March/000794.html>

**Campbell, Sue. *Being dismissed: The politics of emotional expression***  
**Hypatia[Bloomington], vol.9, no.3, pp.46, 1994**

Also Recommended

Dean, Jodi (2009) 'Politics without Politics', Parallax,15:3, 20-36

Michael O'Rourke on queer theory and Ranciere

<http://ranciere.blogspot.com/2007/12/ranciere-and-queer-theory-some-further.html>

Video interview clip with Helene Cixous

<http://www.continental-philosophy.org/category/feminism/>

Video Clip of Jean Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir

Conference on the Idea of Communism, University of Birbeck 2008 (Ranciere, Zizek, Badiou, etc)

<http://www.monthlyreview.org/mrzine/ioc260309.html>

Alternative program on Idea of Communism calling attention to absence of women

<http://www.cinestatic.com/infinitythought/2009/03/alternative-schedule.asp>

**week 003 21 Jan – Communities Under Empire (ET1/MB2)**

*This week will explore the relation of early Stoic communities to the Roman Empire and examine the pedagogical, political and ethical elements of this articulation of community. Part Two will examine how feminist political theory questions fundamental concepts such as rationality invoked in Stoic conceptions of self, ethics, and community.*

Part One (ET)

*Foucault and His Interlocutors*, edited by Arnold I. Davidson (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997), pp. 195-248.

Michel Foucault, *The Hermeneutics of the Subject* (Lectures at the College de France 1981-1982), pp. 1-24.

Part Two (MB)

Susan Okin, *Women in Western Political Thought*, Princeton University Press. **(in Course Packet)** (1979/1992)

Chapter 3, "Female Nature and Social Structure"

Chapter 10, "Women and Functionalism Past and Present"

Chapter 11, "Persons, Women and the Law"

Also Recommended

Elizabeth Spelman, *Inessential Women: Issues of Exclusion in Feminist Philosophy*,

(Beacon Press, 1990).

Richard Sorabji, *Emotion and Peace of Mind: from Stoic agitation to Christian temptation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), "Introduction," pp. 1-16; "Part 1: Emotions as Judgements Versus Irrational Forces," pp. 17-158.

Pierre Hadot, *Philosophy as a Way of Life*, edited with an Introduction by Arnold I. Davidson (New York: Blackwell, 1995).

#### **week 004 28 Jan – Communities by Design (ET)**

*This week will take up the question of design with respect to its utopian ambitions. We will discuss the manifestos of Le Corbusier and Rem Koolhaas and their respective philosophical commitments. These readings will be accompanied by reading from Felicity Scott and Beatriz Colomina that emphasize issues of gender and design.*

Le Corbusier, "Architecture or Revolution," in *Towards An Architecture*, translated by John Goodman, Introduction by Jean-Louis Cohen (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2007), pp. 291-307.

Rem Koolhaas/OMA, "Exodus, or the Voluntary Prisoners of Architecture," in *S, M, L, XL* (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 'Foreplay' Part 1 (architecture as script).

Felicity Scott, "Involuntary Prisoners of Architecture," in *Architecture or Techno-utopia: Politics After Modernism* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007), pp. 247-282.

Beatriz Colomina, "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism," in *Sexuality and Space*, edited by Beatriz Colomina (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992), pp. 73-130.

#### **week 005 4 February – Gender and Communities by Design (MB)**

*(all readings in Course Packet)*

Simone de Beauvoir, "Introduction," *The Second Sex*, (New York: Vintage Press, 1974)

Bammer, Angelika. *Partial Visions: Feminism and Utopianism in the 1970s*. Chapter Two (New York: Routledge, 1991).

Iris Marion Young, "Social Difference as a Political Resource," from *Inclusion and Democracy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979/1992).

Amrita Basu, "Introduction", in *The Challenge of Global Feminism*, (Westview Press, 1995), pp. 1-21.

[http://www.newschool.edu/tcds/wr09reader\\_cosmo/8\\_%20Basu\\_Intro.%20ChallengeofLocalFeminisms.pdf](http://www.newschool.edu/tcds/wr09reader_cosmo/8_%20Basu_Intro.%20ChallengeofLocalFeminisms.pdf)

Also Recommended

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex" in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader* (Blackwell Publishing, 2006) pp.87-106.

**week 006 11 Feb — Communities of Friends & Enemies (ET)**

*This week examines the legal philosophy of Carl Schmitt and its political-pedagogical determinations that situate community as a distinction between friends and enemies. This political articulation of community will be further examined with respect to Jacques Derrida's more recent assessment. We will be joined by Lucas AJ Freeman, PhD candidate in Political Theory at U of T, to discuss these texts,*

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, translated by George Schwab (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

Jacques Derrida, "On Absolute Hostility: The Cause of Philosophy and the Spectre of the Political," in *The Politics of Friendship*, translated by George Collins (London and New York: Verso, 2005), pp. 112-137.

Also Recommended

Chantal Mouffe, "Carl Schmitt and the Paradox of Liberal Democracy," in *The Challenge of Carl Schmitt*, ed. Chantal Mouffe (London: Verso Press, 1999), pp. 38-53.

**READING WEEK - 18 FEBRUARY**

**week 007 25 February — Feminist Theories and Critiques of State (MB)**

Iris Marion Young, Intro and Chapters 1-3, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, (Rutgers University Press, 2005)

Iris Marion Young, "Social Difference as a Political Resource," from *Inclusion and Democracy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 81-120.

Catherine MacKinnon, *Towards a Feminist Theory of State*, (Harvard University Press, 1989)

Helene Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa", *Signs*, v1 no4 1976

Finish Monique Wittig, *Les Guerrilleres*, (Viking Press, 1971/University of Illinois 2007).

Also Recommended

[Hypatia Volume 23, Number 3, Summer 2008](#)

[In Honor of Iris Marion Young: Theorist and Practitioner of Justice](#)

Carole Pateman, excerpts, *The Sexual Contract*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988).

**week 008 4 March — Anticolonial Community (ET)**

*This week examines the development of the concept of community in anticolonial struggle and the attendant political implications for subsequent theories of the common; readings include:*

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, translated by Constance Farrington, Preface by Jean-Paul Sartre (New York: Grove Press, 1961).

Jim Dingeman, “ ‘You Cannot Continually Inflict’: An Interview with Saadi Yacef,” *Framework* 49, No. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 48-64.

Gillo Pontecorvo’s *The Battle of Algiers*, 1966 (film screening).

Marnia Lazreg, [Feminism and Difference: The Perils of Writing as a Woman on Women in Algeria](#) (pp. 81-107)

**Also Recommended**

*MB Note: strongly recommended for those interested in feminist and gendered questions of women and colonialism*

Colonialism and modernity: Feminist re-presentations of women in non-western space  
A Ong - *Inscriptions*, 1988

[http://culturalstudies.ucsc.edu/PUBS/Inscriptions/vol\\_3-4/aihwaong.html](http://culturalstudies.ucsc.edu/PUBS/Inscriptions/vol_3-4/aihwaong.html)

L Abu-Lughod, Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural ...

[uor.edu](http://uor.edu) - *American Anthropologist*, 2002

Cynthia Enloe, from *The Curious Feminist*, “Updating the Gendered Empire: Where are the Women in Occupied Afghanistan and Iraq?” (University of California Press, 2004)

Marnie Lazreg, *The eloquence of silence: Algerian Women in Question*, (New York: Routledge, 1994)

**week 009 11 March — Confined Community/Community of Exile (ET)**

*The week attends to a fundamental question of community, namely, the role of the missive in sustaining communities that have been divided, colonized, exiled and imprisoned; readings include:*

Aron Douglass Castlin, *Who Am Eye: A Spokenword Memoir* (Truth Spear Publishing,

2009).

Sundiata Acoli, "An Updated History of the New Afrikan Prison Movement," available online: [http://www.4strugglemag.org/archives/cat\\_issue\\_13.html#000432](http://www.4strugglemag.org/archives/cat_issue_13.html#000432)

Leonard Peltier, *In Total Resistance* (Leonard Peltier Defense Committee Publication, Rapid City, S.D., 1981).

### Also Recommended

Assata Shakur, *Assata: An Autobiography* (Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books, 1987).

Emma Goldman, "Anarchism: What it Really Stands For," and "The Tragedy of Woman's Emancipation," in *Anarchism and Other Essays* (New York: Dover Publications, 1969), pp. 47-68; 177-194; 213-226.

Burma VJ (documentary on how digital media communications were used in the Burmese and Tibetan monk uprising)

Recommended screening: documentary, *A Place of Rage* (1991)

### **week 010 18 March – Virtual Communities [& Electronic Missives? Likely Omit] (MB)**

*readings to be selected from below:*

Barry Wellman, [The Network Community](#)

Howard Rheingold, (1993) "The Heart of The Well," from *The Virtual Community*, [available online](#). Fred Turner, "Where the counterculture met the new economy: the WELL and the origins of virtual community," *Technology and Culture*, Volume 46, Number 3, July 2005, pp. 485-512 [available online](#) as PDF.

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~wellman/publications/globalvillage/in.htm>

Barry Wellman and Milena Julia, (1999), "Netsurfers Don't Ride Alone: Virtual Communities As Communities," in *Communities in Cyberspace*, Kollock and Smith, eds., Routledge, [available online](#)

Julian Dibbell, (1998). A Rape in Cyberspace. In *My Tiny Life: Crime and Passion in a Virtual World* (pp. 11-30). New York: Henry Holt and Company. [available online](#).

Megan Boler, "Hypes Hopes and Actualities: Digital Cartesianism." *New Media and Society*, 2007.

Peter Kollock & Marc A. Smith, "Communities in Cyberspace" (CC)

Guillermo Gómez-Peña, "The **Virtual** Barrio @ The Other Frontier (or the Chicano interneta)" (online)

Lori Kendall, "MUDder? I Hardly Know 'Er! Adventures of a Feminist MUDder"

Recommended:

William J. Mitchell. *e-topia: "Urban Life Jim -- But Not as We Know It."* Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1999. Chapter 6, "Getting Together." pp. 86-89 [book available online]

via utoronto library]

Lisa Nakamura,

Howard Rheingold, (2002) *Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution*, (Cambridge: Perseus), pp xi-xxii; 157-215. (READER ONLY)

Ethan Zuckerman, "Mobile Phones and Social Activism," [available online](#).

Putnam, R. (1995) "[Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital](#)," *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 6 (1), pp 65-78.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/commstud/resources/GenderMedia/cyber.html>

<http://www.smartmobs.com/>

**week 011 25 March — Communities of Friendship & Affirmation; Hope & Utopia (ET1/MB2)**

*This week will examine the role of the laudatory essay among the literary and philosophical community comprised of Georges Bataille, Pierre Klossowski, Maurice Blanchot, Michel Foucault, and Gilles Deleuze. In Part 2, Professor Boler will engage a discussion of how discourses of hope and utopia are drawn upon as foundations for imagining communities and possibilities/potentials.*

**Part One (ET)**

Maurice Blanchot, *Lautréamont and Sade*, translated by Stuart Kendall and Michelle Kendall (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004), especially "Preface: What is the Purpose of Criticism?", pp. 1-6.

Eleanor Kaufmann, *The Delirium of Praise* (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).

Michel Foucault and Maurice Blanchot, *Foucault/Blanchot* (New York: Zone Books, 1990).

**Part Two (MB)**

Bammer, Angelika. Ch. 6, "Writing towards the Not yet: Utopia as Process," *Partial Visions: Feminism and Utopianism in the 1970s*. (New York: Routledge, 1991).

Jose Munoz, *Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity* 2009 (Introduction and Chapter 1)

Hope: New Philosophies for Change ed Mary Zournazi

--"Hope, Passion, Politics," Interview with Mouffe and Laclau

--"Faith Without Certitudes," Interview with Nikos Papastergiadis

**week 012 1 April — Communities of Sex & Pleasure (ET1/MB2)**

*This week examines the role of pleasure as a force that binds, distinguishes, and provokes a community.*

**Part One (ET)**

Michel Foucault, *Ethics: Subjectivity and Truth (Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984 Volume 1)*, edited by Paul Rabinow (New York: New Press, 1997), pp. 121-252.

Pat Califia, *Public Sex: The Culture of Radical Sex*, Second Edition (Cleis Press, 2000). (selections TBA)

Patrick Califia, *Speaking Sex to Power: The Politics of Queer Sex* (Cleis Press, 2001). (selections TBA)

### Part Two (MB)

L Faderman Chapter One. "The Loves of Women for each Other," in *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers : A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America* (1991).

Luce Irigaray, excerpts from *This Sex Which is Not One* (Cornell University Press, 1977, 1985)

*Whores and Other Feminists*, edited by Jill Nagle (New York: Routledge, 1997).

Screening: *Tongues Untied*, dir. Marlon Riggs

### Also Recommended

O'Brien, J.(1990). [Writing in the Body: Gender \(re\) production in Online Interaction](#) In Marc Smith and Peter Kollock (editors). 1999. *Communities in Cyberspace*. London: Routledge.

Jean-Luc Hennig, *The Little Black Book of Grisélidis Réal: Days and Nights of an Anarchist Whore*, translated by Ariana Reines With Grisélidis Réal (New York: Semiotext(e), 2009).

## **EVALUATION**

- 1 Critical Responses: 30% (15% each)
- 2 Research Paper Proposal: 15%
- 3 Final Research Paper: 35%
- 4 Class Participation: 20%

### Critical Responses

Value: 30%

Due Dates (in class): week 004; week 006.

Description: For two classes you are required to write a critical response (approx. 1000 words) to the assigned readings. You may focus on an analysis of one particular reading or you may address comparisons and differences among several readings. You should draw on the accompanying lecture to guide your response. Your response must demonstrate a clear understanding of the argument made by the text(s) under discussion and should briefly take a critical position with respect to that argument.

### Research Paper Proposal

Value: 15%

Due Date (in class): week 009.

Description: The proposal for the final research paper requires that you provide a detailed description of the problem you will address in your final paper (approx 1500 words). The proposal will include an outline of the problem you will address, the outline of your argument, and a list of sources including at least five annotated sources in your bibliography.

### Research Paper

Value: 35%

Due Date: TBA.

Description: The final research paper will demonstrate a capacity for textual research (and in particular for synthesizing and responding critically to secondary sources), clarity of exposition, observance of appropriate documentation protocols, and capacity to develop a sustained argument on a prescribed topic. The topics for the research paper will be suggested during course lectures and discussion. You may choose one of those topics; or you may adapt, with the approval of the instructor, one of those topics to your own area of interest; or formulate, again with the approval of the instructor, your own topic based on material covered in the course. In every case you will be required to write a formal research paper on that topic (4000 words). Papers are due, in hard copy form, April 15.

### Class Participation

Value: 20%

Description: You are expected to attend every lecture and come to class prepared to discuss the readings and engage the course instructor and guest lecturers on the topics under consideration. Critical discussion and engagement are essential elements in the development your position with respect to both the readings and your research.

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy (and how that policy is interpreted and applied in this Faculty). The *University of Toronto, School of Graduate Studies, 2009 – 2010 Calendar*, pages 35 to 39 explains that policy in detail.

### **PLAGIARISM**

University of Toronto code of Behaviour on Academic Matters states that "it shall be an offense for a student knowingly: to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism."

For accepted methods of standard documentation formats, including electronic citation of internet sources please see the U of T writing website at:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html#elect>

The full Code of Behaviour regulations could be found from consulting <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/current/calendar/regulations16.asp>

### **writing and English language**

As well as the faculty writing support, please see English Language and writing support at University of Toronto: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/english/> and <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>. Students have commented that they found the latter address extremely helpful for writing term papers.

The following are also useful:

Sylvan Barnett, *A Short Guide to Writing About Art*. 5-7th edition (New York: Harper-Collins, 1997)

William Strunk Jr., E.B. White, *The Elements of Style* (New York: MacMillan Publishing)

### **LATE WORK**

All assignments are due in class at the specified time and date.

Late submission will result in a 5% deduction (of each assignment's total grade) per business day, excluding weekends.

In the case of illness or other special circumstance, notification should be given to the instructors and the Program Office as soon as possible and before the deadline in question.

Late work submitted after the final day of classes, TBA, is not acceptable without prior written permission from the Program Director.