Course Description
This course will explore some of the many epistemological approaches emerging from or responding to various forms of oppression. One of our primary foci will be on the link between embodiment and subjectivity; gendered, raced, sexualized, dis/abled and specied embodiedment; the exclusions and effacements in theory and in life occurring based on such “marked” embodiedment; ecologically-situated embodiment; and the politics of embodiment. The course will address the way identities (whether chosen or ascriptive) and embodied experience affect ways of knowing. We’ll scrutinize various feminist accounts of objectivity, truth, and knowledge with an eye toward the political. In addition to feminist standpoint epistemology, we’ll look at epistemologies of ignorance, and epistemologies of resistance. Students interested in embodied epistemologies as developed in feminism, phenomenology, queer theory, critical race theory, animality studies and posthumanism, and environmental theory (including and especially environmental justice) will find that their interests richly intersect in the material being offered through this course.

Required Texts


Requirements
Students are required to complete all reading for the class and encouraged to read beyond the assigned reading. In addition, active participation in class discussion and attendance at all class meetings is required and one précis (20%). The course grade will be based on this as well as the successful completion of (1) a term paper (approximately 20 pages in length) with proposal due March 19; rough draft due April 9; presentation with draft to commentator April 30 (60%); and (2) one book review (1500 words) scheduled throughout the term (20%).

Calendar

Introduction to feminist epistemologies

Standpoint


**Epistemologies of Ignorance**


March 5: Spring break

**Epistemologies of the Ecological Body**

March 12: Stacy Alaimo, *Bodily Natures* (1-84)

March 19: Proposals Due; Stacy Alaimo, *Bodily Natures* (85-158); Grasswick, “Climate Change Science and Responsible Trust” *Hypatia* 29.3 (electronic)


**Epistemology of Resistance**


April 9: Rough Drafts Due; José Medina, *The Epistemology of Resistance* (119-249)

April 23: José Medina, *The Epistemology of Resistance* (250-315); Scholz, selections from *Political solidarity*

April 30: Final Conference Presentations with commentary
Book Review List (a nonexhaustive list of suggested books for review)
Stacy Alaimo, Susan Hekman, Michael Hames-Garcia, eds., Material Feminisms
Linda Alcoff, Visible Identities
Liz Anderson, The Imperative of Integration
Lorraine Code, Ecological Thinking: The Politics of Epistemic Location
Bruce Erickson and Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands, eds., Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire
Miranda Fricker, Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing
Sandra Harding, Whose Science, Whose Knowledge?
Nancy Hartsock, Feminist Standpoint Revisited
Sarah Jaquette-Ray, The Ecological Other: Environmental Exclusion in American Culture
Val Plumwood, Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason
Sara Ruddick, Maternal Thinking
Alexis Shotwell, Knowing Otherwise: Race, Gender, and Implicit Understanding
Noel Sturgeon, Environmentalism in Popular Culture: Gender, Race, Sexuality, and the Politics of the Natural
Shannon Sullivan and Nancy Tuana, Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance
Susan Wendell, The Rejected Body: Feminist Philosophical Reflections on Disability
George Yancy’s Reframing the Practice of Philosophy: Bodies of Color, Bodies of Knowledge
Call for papers

Embodied Epistemologies

A one day conference held at Villanova University
April 30, 2014: 2:30-5:00 pm (time may be adjusted to accommodate all speakers)

Possible topics include:

- New directions in standpoint theory
- Challenges to standpoint theory
- Feminist empiricism and standards of objectivity
- Science, objectivity, and politics
- Emotion and knowledge
- Epistemologies of ignorance
- Disability and ignorance
- Epistemic resources of dissent
- Epistemic privilege and moral privilege
- Politics of knowing
- More-than-human Epistemic Agents
- Posthuman environmental epistemologies
- Intersectional knowing

Papers on any topic related to the theme welcome.

Presenters will have 15 minutes to present their papers. While traditional reading of paper is allowed, the organizers encourage multimedia presentations. Papers will be followed by a 15 minute discussion period. Every session is a plenary.