TOPIC: FEMINISM AND DEHUMANIZATION

The focus of the seminar will be on Mari Mikkola's book, *The Wrong of Injustice. Dehumanization and Its Role in Feminist Philosophy* (OUP 2016). We will spend the first part of the course evaluating Mikkola’s critique of prominent approaches to the analysis of gender. The second part of the course will turn to Mikkola’s argument that feminism is wrong to presuppose that the injustice suffered by women is gender-specific. She argues that feminism should focus on the ‘humanistic’ wrong of dehumanization. We will juxtapose chapters from Mikkola’s book with articles and chapters by other authors, in particular extracts from Kate Manne’s *Down Girl. The Logic of Misogyny* (OUP 2017) in which Manne argues that misogyny should not be analyzed as a kind of dehumanization.

*NOTE: Manne’s book deals with disturbing issues of violence against women and is quite graphic in its description of examples.*

The books are available through amazon.ca or on Oxford Scholarship Online through the McGill Library.

Additional articles will be available online or on MyCourses.

EVALUATION:

1. Attendance at and participation in the seminar including two presentations on the weekly reading: 20%
2. Draft proposal (topic of your choice) of research essay and reading list, due on or before Monday, April 1 2019: 10%
3. Final research essay (approx. 5000 words), due Monday, April 22 2019: 70%

*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.*
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity/ for more information).

DETAILED READING LIST:

**Week 1** (January 16): Administrative Matters and Introduction


**Week 2** (January 23): Against the Gender Controversy


Suggested:


**Week 3** (January 30): Nominalist Responses to the Semantic and Ontological Puzzles


**Week 4** (February 6): Realist Responses to the Semantic and Ontological Puzzles


Suggested:


**Week 5 (February 13): Deflating the Puzzles**


**Week 6 (February 20): The Logic of Misogyny**


**Week 7 (February 27): The Wrong of Rape**


**Study Break (March 6)**

**Week 8 (March 13): Dehumanization**


**Week 9 (March 20): Forms of Injustice and Emancipatory Social Theory: Discrimination and Domination**


**Week 10 (March 27): Forms of Injustice and Emancipatory Social Theory: Oppression**


**Week 11 (April 3): Contours of Injustice and Feminist Social Theory; Overcoming Dehumanization**


**Week 12 (April 10): Back to Misogyny**

Manne, K. *Down Girl*, Chapter 6, ’Exonerating Men’ & Chapter 7,’ Suspecting Victims.’

**Week 13 (Date TBA): Session for students to present and receive feedback on essay proposals.**