GYNOTOPIA – PHALLOTOPIA
Gender, Freedom, and The Political

Course Description
Gynotopia meaning something like “woman’s place/woman’s world”
Phallotopia meaning something like “man’s place/man’s world”

Our world is divided up into dualisms that define in advance our expectations of ourselves and others. These dualisms constitute our social, moral, and political systems and are taken for granted and assumed to be “unchangeable” or “just the way things are.” Arguably no other dualism is as powerful and pervasive than that of Male and Female, for we constantly live these values, measure ourselves and others by them, and determine our futures according to them. An inquiry into Gynotopia and Phallotopia will allow a critical distance from which we can understand and critique the dualism of Male and Female such that we can gain a more clear picture of who we are and where we are heading.

In addition to gender we will explore other dualisms pertaining to race, property, power, and work.

Required Texts
Aeschylus Oresteia Grene & Lattimore Eds (ISBN: 0226307786)

PDF files on *My Course*
Merchant, "Nature as Feminine"
Brule: Woman’s Spiritual and Natural Essence
Plato Republic, Laws (Selections)
Aristotle, Politics Bk 1
Hippocrates (selections)
Greek women poets (selections)
Karl Marx “Estranged Labor”
Herbert Marcuse “The Aesthetic Dimension”
Heide Göttner-Abendroth: “Nine Principles of a Matriarchal Aesthetic” (selections)
Toril Moi “Feminist, Female, Feminine,”
Simone de Beauvoir The Second Sex, (Introduction & Conclusion)

**Requirements**

Students are expected to be responsible to their classmates by being prepared for class, which includes having done the reading, and being ready to discuss that reading. Your other requirements will consist of two exams (35%), 3 exegetical papers (35%), a thematic paper (15%) and a preparedness for and involvement in class (15%).

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. Absences will adversely impact not only your test grades, but will be used in determining your final grades. Attendance, obviously, will have a positive impact on your grades. Chronic absences will result in failure of the class. Texting in class will count as an absence, as you will be asked to leave. Any extra-credit possibilities will be tied to attendance.

**Exegetical Papers**

Three times during the course of the semester I will provide topics for these papers. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO WRITE THREE! The goal of the exegetical papers is to have you delve into a particular issue or author in order to understand a specific point in depth. These papers are less about your opinion than they are about getting right the issue at hand.

**Some things to keep in mind:**

1) Use textual support. Part of the purpose of this paper is to demonstrate that you have read and understood the sources, and can take them up thematically. Show, don’t tell. “Demonstrate” what the authors say, don’t just tell me what they say.

2) How well you have supported your understanding of the issues. Do you have the ideas figured out well? Is this supported by the text and thorough? Have you clearly demonstrated why these issues you have brought up are important to your point?

3) Is the point of your paper clear? That is to say, do all the points you brought up help make your point? Is the demonstration of this thesis well reasoned? Have you demonstrated a clear idea that is responsible for itself?

4) General writing issues. Is the writing clear, mistake free, and readable?

**Thematic Paper**

Our theme this semester has been “Gynotopia/Phallotopia.” To ascertain these meanings we have looked at a variety of different philosophers and works of art. Given these perspectives, write a paper in which you articulate your own understanding of this theme. Use the ideas that we have come up with during the semester to help articulate your own ideas. Remember, I am looking for the why more than the what.

**Length:** The length of the paper will depend on the thoroughness of your analyses, attention to detail, breadth of theme, and writing style.

Plagiarism will make me very, very mad. All the University’s policies on the matters are in effect.

**Course Schedule (Subject to change)**