PHI 2107 **Philosophy of Gender**

Course Code:

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course description :***

The course examines the views about the role of men and women in society as they have developed through history and as they stand today, especially in the African context. It highlights the issues associated with these roles and the ensuing questions related to gender. The course assesses the thoughtful contribution of men and women to gender issues, considering the questions involved like the meaning of being equal and of being different, of being disadvantaged and needing, perhaps, preferential treatment to compensate for such disadvantages. The course examines the fallacies, prejudices, misunderstandings and manipulation related to the gender issue. It analyses the history of male domination vis-à-vis the idea of female inferiority, the differences between the sexes, the differentiation of roles in society and the concepts of feminism, sexism, etc. The various stands vis-avis gender are examined like the uncritical acceptance, the emotional reaction, the radical approach and the philosophical position to this issue.

***Course objective:***

# The course aims at helping students gain knowledge, understand and develop reliable analytical skills in examining genders challenges. It targets raising thinkers who are versed in identifying and dealing with deep and underlying gender problems and nuances that shape social, political and other human discourses.

***Learning objectives***

By the end of the course, students shall be expected:

1. To appreciate the role of philosophy in understanding gender problems
2. To have gained the most basic knowledge of the major gender categories and theories in the field of philosophy of gender
3. To have developed good skills in analyzing gender problems in society
4. To be able to relate cultural with gender
5. To have learnt how to philosophically articulate their positions on gender issues

***Course outline***

1. General Introduction to philosophy of Gender
2. Approaches to the study of philosophy of gender
3. Gender, Sex and Sexism – Clarifications
4. Selected Philosophical perspectives on men and women
5. Marriage and Gender
6. Human Sexuality and natural
7. Human Sexuality as a Social Construct
8. Transgender and trans-sexuality
9. Gender Identity
10. Feminism
11. Various theories / schools of feminism
12. Politics and feminism
13. Masculism

***Methodology***

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; Interactive lectures, guest lectures, seminars, tutorials, question and answer sessions, small group discussions.

***Assessment Mode***

Take home exercise 15%

Practical exercise / test 15%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. VigdisSonge-Moller, 2003, *Philosophy Without Women: The Birth of Sexism in Western Thought*, Continuum International Publishing Group
2. Waylen Georgina, 1996, *Gender in Third World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc.
3. Juliet Mitchell & Ann Oakley, 1986, eds., *What is Feminism*, Basil Blackwell Ltd
4. Christine Obbo, 1980, *African Women: Their Struggle for Economic Independence*, Zed Press, London
5. Andrea Cornwall, 2005, ed., *Readings in Gender in Africa*, IndianaUniversity Press
6. Aili Mari Tripp () “A Foot in the Door: Historical Dimensions of the Women's Movement in Uganda”
7. Melissa A. Butler (1978) “Early Liberal Roots of Feminism: Locke and the Attack on Patriarchy”, The American Political Science Review, Vol. 72, No. 1 (Mar., 1978), pp. 135-150
8. AmartyaSen (1995)“Gender Inequality and Theories of Justice,” in Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, eds., *Women, Culture and Development* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995)
9. Sylvia Tamale, “Gender implications for opening up political parties in Uganda”