This course introduces key ideas from some of the leading political-philosophical traditions such as social contract tradition, liberalism, republicanism, socialism/ Marxism and critical theory. It considers the role of gender and sexuality in these traditions. A historical focus is given to major texts by past women philosophers and political theorists from the 18th to the 20th C, whose reflections on sex, gender and women’s rights are also considered classics of political philosophy. A fourth focal point of the course asks how equal rights claims were historically formulated by “those who had no rights”. A further section of the course which gives a focus to paradoxes and inconsistencies which have arisen in the history of rights claims discourse allows student to develop their skills in textual interpretation. Finally, the course also gives attention to the role of gender and sexuality in contemporary political theory, focussing on debates about justice and the family, pornography, prostitution, surrogacy contracts, the ‘politics of the veil’ in the public sphere, multiculturalism, and challenges from contemporary theorists whose work is based in the resources of intersectionality theory, critical race theory, and queer theory. A final section on contemporary debates and figures in feminist political philosophy, includes excerpts by contemporary philosophers and political thinkers such as Susan Moller Okin, Carole Pateman, Joan Scott and Judith Butler.