Course Objectives:

This course uses sexual harassment as a lens through which to view the interaction between theory and practice.

- How do we think about gender, sexuality, work, agency, respect?
- How do these ideas inform laws and policies in workplaces and schools?
- How have recent high profile instances of sexual harassment changed the legal outlook on SH?
- How can #MeToo activism change the way people think about SH?

We will explore how it is that sexual harassment came to be seen as wrong, what kinds of arguments have been put forward about the nature and extent of its wrongness, and to what sorts of relations sexual harassment applies.

We will look at sexual harassment theoretically, legally, politically and empirically. You will read court cases, philosophical arguments, legal theories, empirical studies and political analyses all centering around sexual harassment.

Learning Outcomes:

We will be reading legal cases and legal scholarship. We will also be reading scholarship on sexual harassment from sociologists, political scientists and feminist scholars. Likewise we will read philosophical arguments about work, equality and sexuality. Upon successful completion of this course students can:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the law, theory and primary issues concerned with sexual harassment.
- Analyze legal cases
- Apply knowledge of these theories to new situations.

These learning outcomes will be assessed in exams and papers.

Required Books:

Martha Nussbaum
Nancy Levit and Robert R. M. Verchick
Catherine MacKinnon

Citadels of Pride
Feminist Legal Theory, A Primer (2nd edition)
The Sexual Harassment of Working Women

Course requirements:

There are two exams and one short paper in addition to the project. Active participation is expected. Attendance will be marked, but it not required.
OAKS will be used for some readings and short papers and project progress will be submitted via OAKS. Students will access court cases through Nexis Uni a legal database available through the library’s database site. Court cases are searched through Nexis Uni by clicking Databases on the CofC Library page (under N), input the case number (included on syllabus) at the top of the search page (“All Nexis Uni”).

2 exams 20% each
Short paper 15%
Long paper/project (includes proposal and annotated bibliography) 25%
Lecture/event responses 5%
Class participation 15%

Grading scale:

Schedule of Readings
8/25: Introduction
8/27: Feminist Legal Theory, Intro and Chs. 1, Cuomo assignment
8/30: Martha Nussbaum, Citadels of Pride, Preface and Ch. 1
(link to Nussbaum talking about Cuomo on NPR on OAKS)
9/1: Abigail Saguy “The Making of a Concept”
9/3: Feminist Legal Theory, Ch. 2
9/6: Kimberle Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex” (OAKS)
9/8: Angela P. Harris, “Race and Essentialism in Feminist Legal Theory” (OAKS)
And Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. (EEOC webpage).
And Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. (EEOC webpage), continued.

Paper 1 due
9/17: Feminist Legal Theory, Ch. 3 (Workplace, Wages, and Welfare)
9/20: Nussbaum, Chapter 2
Project proposal due (OAKS)

9/22: Nussbaum, Chapter 3

9/24: Catch up day

9/27: Catherine MacKinnon, Sexual Harassment of Working Women Introduction and Women’s Work (Chs 1-2 in SHWW)

9/29: Catherine MacKinnon, SHWW, Chs.3

10/1: Catherine MacKinnon, SHWW, Ch. 4

10/4: Catherine MacKinnon, SHWW, Ch. 5

10/6: Catherine MacKinnon, SHWW, Ch. 6

10/8: Catherine MacKinnon, SHWW, Chs. 7 and Appendices

10/11: Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson (477 U.S. 57) and Harris v. Forklift (510 U.S. 17)

Project annotated bibliography due (OAKS)

10/13: Exam

10/15: Open Day

10/18: Fall Break

10/20: TBD (there are a number of possibilities of where we go from here, we shall discuss and choose!)

10/22:

10/25:

10/27:

10/29:

11/1:

11/3:

11/5:

11/8:

11/10:

11/12:

11/15:

11/17:

11/19:

11/22:

11/24: Thanksgiving Break

11/29:
Final project is due the day of the final exam (and in lieu of that exam): December 8, 11:59 on OAKS

Exams
There are two midterm exams that will include terms, short answer and a mid-length in class essay.

Papers
There are two papers assigned for the class. A short paper (due 9/13) that will analyze one of the cases that we read. And a longer project that will include a proposal and an annotated bibliography (due 10/11). This paper can focus on a recent legal case (in the last 5 years), it can focus on sexual harassment in a particular setting (military, schools, churches, etc.) or it can focus on contemporary activism or issue around SH. This paper is due on December 8.

Additional policies:

OAKS:
OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

Academic Integrity:
Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/.

Academic Dishonesty: Papers and take home exam essays must be properly cited. All citations should be made in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Political Science Department’s referencing guide (available online at Political Science Department webpage: http://polisci.cofc.edu/documents/12policitationguide.pdf ).
**Accommodations:** The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

**Food and Housing Resources**

Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php). Also, you can go to http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need.

**Weather/Illness:** In the event of class being cancelled on account of the weather or a rising number of people in isolation, we will pivot online. For a weather event that requires evacuation I expect you to use OAKS and to have your books available. Every effort will be made to have discussions online during a weather event.

**Mental & Physical Wellbeing:**

At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at http://counseling.cofc.edu or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.