

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

READING GUIDE #1

MISOGYNY AS INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTIC

WHEN doing the reading for this class, there are the two basic kinds of information you need to understand:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible position on an issue, rather than another.

READING

Manne, K. (2018). Threatening women. In *Down girl: The logic of misogyny* (pp. 31–54). Oxford University Press.

COMMENT

You may notice that my questions do jump back and forth through the reading a bit. I do not typically order questions that way.

However, I hope that my non-linear presentation of these questions will help you

better follow the structure and progression of Kate Manne's argument in this chapter.

QUESTIONS

As you read, keep these questions in mind:

1. What does Kate Manne mean by the "naïve conception" (p. 32) of misogyny?
2. What reasons does Manne give for believing that the naïve conception is both "too narrow" (p. 33) and too broad ("not focused enough", p. 33) to be useful?
3. What "epistemological concerns" (p. 44) does the naïve conception raise? Why are these problems?
4. Why does Manne believe that naïve misogyny would be rare, or perhaps even non-existent, in a patriarchy? Why is that a problem?

(For these questions, you will probably need to first answer question 9 and then come back here.)

5. What is an "ameliorative" (p. 42) approach to understanding the meaning of a concept?
6. How is Manne's approach to understanding the meaning and nature of misogyny ameliorative in that way?

(Hint: one good answer may be found on the top of page 49.)

7. What does Manne believe to be a more accurate understanding of misogyny?

(Hint: She initially states this at the bottom of page 33, and she fleshes it out towards the end of the chapter. See especially when she talks about the "functional essence of misogyny" on page 47.)

8. Who are the "targets and victims" (p. 51) of this more nuanced form of misogyny?
9. How does Manne understand "the nature of patriarchal social orders, relations, and roles" (p. 45)?
10. How is this idea of patriarchy related to her conception of misogyny?
11. Putting all this together, why does Manne believe that her conception of misogyny is better able (than the naïve conception) to help us understand the Isla Vista Killings as misogynistic?

To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently about these issues at our next class meeting.