

GV150 Week 24 Mill On the Subjection of Women Questions

Lecture:

1. Is there any context in which socialisation does not involve an expression of power?
2. Mill talks of the internalisation of power such that it no longer needs to be exercised because people behave in line with expectations. This is, perhaps, the most insidious form of power but what does it stand in contrast to?
3. What are some contemporary examples of the argument that Mill makes about the meaning of consent being limited by social context?
4. Is human nature diverse and developmental, as Mill argues, or does it have fixed components?

Reading:

5. How does Mill explain how women's bondage to men originally came about? How does Mill associate this bondage with actual slavery?
6. Mill admits that women are the physically weaker sex. Why does this not justify them being treated unequally?
7. How does Mill answer the point that women voluntarily accept the rule of men?
8. How does Mill tie women's freedom together with utilitarian interests in prosperity for all?
9. What legislative measures is Mill proposing to emancipate women? Can you think of an argument which might conclude that women need more help to be truly emancipated?
10. Should society censor pornography?