

**MATH 218M2: RESPONSE PROMPTS FOR PLUMWOOD 1**  
**DUE 10/28**

Val Plumwood, “The politics of reason: towards a feminist logic” (1993). Sections I–III (pages 436–445).

In “The politics of reason”, Plumwood advances the possibility of a feminist logic. The paper is a response to earlier feminist scholarship critical of logic and advocating its abandonment. In this reading assignment you will read the first part of the paper, where Plumwood gives the motivation for her project. Later we will read the latter part of the paper where she sketches her proposal.

**RESPONSE PROMPTS**

For each prompt you should write one or more paragraphs. You are not writing a full essay, but you should write enough to fully respond to the question.

- (1) What does Plumwood take as Nye’s reasons for rejecting logic? How does she respond to those reasons? What is her central counter-argument?
- (2) How does Plumwood understand the distinction between reason and logic?
- (3) How does Plumwood distinguish between a dualism versus mere differentiation? In what ways are dualisms problematic?
- (4) What is Plumwood’s overall thesis?

**SUGGESTED EXTENDED READING**

These are selections from the extended reading which address topics related to this week’s core reading.

- Maryann Ayim, “Passing through the needle’s eye: can a feminist teach logic?” (1995).
- Maureen Eckert and Charlie Donahue, “Towards a feminist logic: Val Plumwood’s legacy and beyond” (2020).
- Franci Mangraviti, “The liberation argument for inconsistent mathematics” (2023).
- Ivan Restović, “Feminist logic, literally” (2023).
- Bonnie Shulman, “What if we change our axioms? A feminist inquiry into the foundations of mathematics” (1996).