

PHIL 1700 – Philosophy of Love and Sex
Carleton University, winter 2016
Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:05-7:25pm, Azrieli Theatre 301

Professor: Annie Larivée
Office hours: 11:40-12:40pm, Mondays and Wednesdays (or by appointment)
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Philosophy of Love and Sex

I – COURSE DESCRIPTION

Love is often described as a form of madness, a formidable irrational force that overpowers our will and intelligence, a condition that we fall into and that can bring either bliss or destruction. In this course, we will challenge this widely held view by adopting a radically different starting point. Through an exploration of the Western philosophical tradition, we will embrace the bold and optimistic conviction that, far from being beyond intelligibility, love (and sex) can be understood and that something like an ‘art of love’ does exist and can be cultivated. Our examination will lead us to question many aspects of our experience of love by considering its constructed nature, its possible objects, and its effects –a process that will help us to better appreciate the value of love in a rich, intelligent and happy human life. We will pursue our inquiry in a diversity of contexts such as love between friends, romantic love, the family, civic friendship, as well as self-love. Exploring ancient and contemporary texts that often defend radically opposite views on love will also help us to develop precious skills such as intellectual flexibility, critical attention, and analytic rigor.

Each class will be devoted to exploring one particular question based on assigned readings.

II - REQUIRED TEXTS

All required texts are available either directly online (links provided on syllabus) or through **Ares** (Carleton Library’s online reserve system). You don’t have to purchase anything.

III - METHODOLOGY

The course will consist of lectures and class discussions based on assigned readings. A significant part of the training for this course rests on the *attentive reading of the texts themselves*

Attendance is required! If you don’t attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course. Please do take this into account before formally registering.

***If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to consult the slides, borrow a classmate’s notes and catch up. My slides will be available on CULearn but I do not post my personal notes.

IV - OUTLINE and CALENDAR:

Note: This schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. If there are modifications to the schedule, you will be notified in class ahead of time.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to do the readings in advance of class meetings.

WEEK 1 (01/06) ***No Class (Prof. Larivée still on medical leave)

WEEK 2 (01/11, 13) **INTRODUCTION**

Reading:

- 1- Erich Fromm, *The Art of Loving*, chapter 1, "Is Love an Art?"
→ Go to: <http://farzad.devbro.com/the%20art%20of%20loving.pdf>
Read: p. 1-6 (page numbers *of the book*)

WEEK 3 (01/18, 20) **GREEK LOVE AND PLATONIC LOVE**

Readings:

1- Plato's, *Symposium*, excerpts (Aristophanes' speech, 189a-193d; Diotima's speech and Alcibiades' praise of Socrates, 193d-212c-end)

- Go to: <https://archive.org/details/PlatosSymposium>
Read: -p. 250-54 (Aristophanes' speech) (page numbers *of the book*)
-p. 263-286 (Diotima's speech and Alcibiades' praise of Socrates)

2- Plato's, *Phaedrus*, excerpt (Socrates' 'palinode', 243c-257b)

- Go to: <http://sfbay-anarchists.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Plato-Phaedrus.pdf>
Read: p. 522-533 (page numbers *of the book*)

WEEK 4 (01/25, 27) **ARISTOTLE ON FRIENDSHIP**

Readings:

1- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethic*, Book VIII

- Go to: <http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/aristotle/Ethics.pdf>
Read: p. 127-145 (page numbers *of the book*)

2- C.S. Lewis, "Friendship. The Least Necessary Love" (Chap.1 of *Friendship. A Philosophical Reader*)

- PDF available on Ares

WEEK 5 (02/01, 03) **SELF-RELIANCE, SELF-LOVE**

Readings:

1- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book IX (excerpts)

- Go to: <http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/aristotle/Ethics.pdf>
Read: p. 150-52 (section 4); 154-160 (sections 7 to 9 inclusive).
(page numbers *of the book*)

2- H. Frankfurt, "Dear Self" (chapter 3 of *The Reasons of Love*)

- PDF available on Ares

WEEK 6 (02/08, 10) **LOVE, SELF-ESTEEM AND PERSONAL IDENTITY; TEST 1 on the 10th**

Reading:

1- N. Branden, "At the Core of Romantic Love: The Muttink Principle" (p. 69-84 of *The Psychology of Romantic Love*)

- PDF available on Ares.

(02/15-19) *Winter Break, no classes!*

WEEK 7 (02/22, 24) ROMANTIC LOVE, ITS NATURE, FEATURES, AND CHALLENGES

Readings:

1- R. Nozick, "Love's Bond" (p. 68-86 of *The Examined Life*)

→ PDF available on Ares.

2- R. Halawani, "The Basis of Romantic Love" (Chap. 3 of *Philosophy of Love, Sex, and Marriage*, p. 60-88)

→ PDF available on Ares.

WEEK 8 (02/29, 03/02) LOVE, GENDER, AND SEX AS SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS

Readings:

1- M. Nussbaum, "Constructing love, desire, and care" (chap. 10 of *Sex and Social Justice*, p.253-75)

→ PDF available on Ares.

2- M. Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, vol. 1. *An Introduction*, chapter 1

→ Go to:

<https://suplaney.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/foucault-the-history-of-sexuality-volume-1.pdf>

Read: p. 3-13b (page numbers *of the book*)

WEEK 9 (03/07, 09) LOVE AND EMOTIONS, LOVE AND REASON(S); FEMINIST CRITIQUES OF LOVE AND SEX, 1

Readings:

1- M. Nussbaum, "Emotions as Judgments of Value" (chap. 1 of *Upheavals of Thought*)

→ PDF available on Ares, read p. 19-56 (page numbers *of the book*)

2- S. De Beauvoir, "Women in love", (part III, chap. 12 of *The Second Sex*)

→ Go to:

https://nashvillefeministart.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/1949_simone-de-beauvoir-the-second-sex.pdf

Read: p. 773-800 (page numbers *of the book*)

WEEK 10 (03/14, 16) FEMINIST CRITIQUES OF LOVE AND SEX, CTN'D; TEST 2 on the 16th

Readings:

1- A. Dworkin, "Possession", chap. 5 of *Intercourse*

→ Go to:

<http://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Andrea-DWORKIN-Intercourse-1987.pdf>

Read: p. 79-100 (page numbers *of the book*)

2- bell hooks, "Romance, Sweet Love", (chap. 10 of *All about Love. New Visions*)

→ Go to: <http://www.slideshare.net/pierceadonovan/all-about-love-bell-hooks>

Read: p. 166-88 (page numbers *of the book*)

WEEK 11 (03/21, 23) SEX AND MORALITY

Readings:

1- M. Nussbaum, "Objectification" (chap. 23 of *Philosophy of Love. Contemporary Readings*)

→ PDF available on Ares

- 2- Th. Nagel, "Sexual Perversion" (p. 105-112 of *Philosophical Perspectives on Love*)
→ PDF available on Ares

WEEK 12 (03/28, 30) FAMILY LOVE AND ITS CRITIQUES

Readings:

- 1- C.S. Lewis, "Affection" (chap. 3 of *Four Loves*)
→ Go to:
http://lucite.org/lucite/archive/fiction_-_lewis/c.s.%20lewis%20-%20the%20four%20loves.pdf
Read, p. 23-39 (page numbers *of the PDF*)
- 2- M. Nussbaum, "Love, Care, and Dignity", (chap. 4 of *Women and Human Development. The Capabilities Approach*)
→ PDF available on Ares, read p. 241-270

WEEK 13 (04/04, 06) POLITICAL LOVE AND LOVE OF HUMANITY (AGAPE)

Readings:

- 1- The Didache
→ Go to <http://www.earlychristianwritings.com/text/didache-roberts.html>
Read: Chap. 1 (1. 1 to 1.6 inclusive "The Two Ways and The First Commandment")
- 2- A. Rand, "The Ethics of Emergencies", (chap. 3 of *The Virtue of Selfishness*)
→ Go to and read:
<http://www.radford.edu/rbarris/Core202/Ayn%20Rand%20reading.pdf>
- 3- M. Nussbaum, "How Love Matters for Justice" (chap. 11 of *Political Emotions. Why Love Matters for Justice*)
→ PDF available on Ares

The Final Exam will take place during the official examination period in April.

V - COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- 1- Test 1:..... 25% (on the material covered since class 1)
2- Test 2: 25% (on the material covered since Test 1)
3- Final exam: 50% (on all material covered in the course with an emphasis on the material covered since Test 2)

If you have any questions or concerns, **contact your T.A. first, via e-mail!!!** E-mail is also the best way to get in touch with me, avoid phone messages if possible.

Note: Students who are registered with the **Paul Menton Centre** are responsible for soliciting letters of accommodation and making arrangements in due time. They **must respect all the deadlines** if they want to be granted special accommodations.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735