

**PHIL 1700 – Philosophy of Love and Sex**  
Carleton University, winter 2017  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:05-7:25pm, UC231

Professor: Annie Larivée  
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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, self-aware and happy human life. We will pursue our inquiry in a diversity of contexts such as love between friends, romantic love, the family, society, 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, some of them mandatory, some optional.

### **II - REQUIRED TEXTS**

All required texts are available 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 go through 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 (01/09, 11) INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE, PHILOSOPHY, GREEK LOVE**

**MANDATORY READING:**

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

**WEEK 2 (01/16, 18) PLATONIC LOVE**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- Plato's, *Symposium*, excerpts (Aristophanes' speech, 189a-193d; Diotima's speech and Alcibiades' praise of Socrates, 193d-212c-end). AVAILABLE ON ARES, OR:  
→ 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. Optional Reading:**

- Plato's, *Phaedrus*, excerpt (Socrates' 'palinode', 243c-257b). AVAILABLE ON ARES, OR:  
→ Go to: <http://sfbay-anarchists.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Plato-Phaedrus.pdf>  
Read: p. 522-533 (page numbers *of the book*)

**WEEK 3 (01/23, 25) PLATO AND ARISTOTLE ON FRIENDSHIP**

**1. Optional reading:**

- Plato, *Lysis* → Go to:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0176%3Atext%3DLysis%3Apage%3D203>

**2. MANDATORY READING:**

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethic*, Book VIII AVAILABLE ON ARES, OR:  
→ Go to: <http://socserv2.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/aristotle/Ethics.pdf>  
Read: p. 127-145 (page numbers *of the book*)

**WEEK 4 (01/30, 02/01) C.S. LEWIS ON FRIENDSHIP, SELF-LOVE**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- C.S. Lewis, "Friendship. The Least Necessary Love" (Chap.1 of: *Friendship. A Philosophical Reader*)  
→ PDF available on Ares

**2. Optional reading:**

- H. Frankfurt, "Dear Self" (chapter 3 of *The Reasons of Love*)  
→ PDF available on Ares

**WEEK 5 (02/06, 08) THE ROLE OF LOVE FOR SELF-LOVE, TEST 1 on the 8<sup>th</sup>**

**1. Optional Readings:**

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book IX (excerpts) AVAILABLE ON ARES, OR:  
→ 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. MANDATORY READING:**

- N. Branden, "At the Core of Romantic Love: The Muttink Principle" (p. 69-84 of *The Psychology of Romantic Love*)  
→ PDF available on Ares.

**WEEK 6 (02/13, 15) FAMILY LOVE AND LOVE OF HUMAN COMMUNITY**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- C.S. Lewis, "Affection" (chap. 3 of *Four Loves*) AVAILABLE ON ARES, OR:

→ Go to:

[http://lucite.org/lucite/archive/fiction\\_-\\_lewis/c.s.%20lewis%20-%20the%20four%20loves.pdf](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. OPTIONAL READING:**

- M. Nussbaum, "Love, Care, and Dignity", (chap. 4 of *Women and Human Development. The Capabilities Approach*)

→ PDF available on Ares, read p. 241-270

(02/20-24) Winter Break, no classes!

**WEEK 7 (02/27, 03/01) ROMANTIC LOVE, MYTH AND REALITY**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

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

→ PDF available on Ares.

**2. Optional reading:**

- 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 (03/06, 08) THE BASIS FOR ROMANTIC LOVE. IS LOVE REASON-BASED OR IRRATIONAL?**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- I. Singer, "Appraisal and Bestowal," (*The Nature of Love, vol. 1: Plato to Luther*, p. 3-15)

→ PDF available on Ares.

**2. Optional Readings:**

- A. Sobel, "Two Views of Love," (*The Structure of Love*, p. 1-6, 12-16)

→ PDF available on Ares.

- 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**)

**WEEK 9 (03/13, 15) LOVE AND SEX AS SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONS, TEST 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup>**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- 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**)

**2. Optional Reading:**

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

→ PDF available on Ares.

**WEEK 10 (03/20, 22) CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER, SEXISM, GENDERED SEX AND LOVE SCRIPTS**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- 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. Optional readings:**

- S. De Beauvoir, "The Woman in Love", (part III, chap. 12 of *The Second Sex*)

→ Go to: [http://uberty.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/1949\\_simone-de-beauvoir-the-second-sex.pdf](http://uberty.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/1949_simone-de-beauvoir-the-second-sex.pdf)

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

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

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

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

**WEEK 11 (03/27, 29) SEX AND MORALITY; OBJECTIFICATION, POLYAMORY, PARAPHILIA, BDSM**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- A. Shotwell, "Ethical Polyamory, Responsibility, and Significant Otherness," chap. 14 of *Desire, Love, and Identity*, Oxford U. Press, p. 277-86.

→ PDF available on Ares

**2. Optional Readings:**

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

→ PDF available on Ares

- Th. Nagel, "Sexual Perversion" (p. 105-112 of *Philosophical Perspectives on Love*)

→ PDF available on Ares

**WEEK 12 (04/03, 05) SEX AND MORALITY; PORNOGRAPHY, SEX WORK**

**1. MANDATORY READING:**

- J. O'Connell Davidson, "The Rights and Wrongs of Prostitution," in *Hypatia* 17 (2, Spring 2002), p. 84-98.

**2. Optional reading;**

- C. MacKinnon, "Pornography, Civil Rights, and Speech," in *Feminist Philosophies. Problems, theories, and applications*, p. 367-380.

*The FINAL EXAM will take place during the official examination period in April (10 - 25)*

**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 or meet with them during their office hours.**

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 (2016-17)

### 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 (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 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](mailto: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*). Requests made within two

weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. 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. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	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. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	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. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	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. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

### Addresses:

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