

PHIL 1700 A: *Philosophy of Love and Sex*
Winter 2015
Carleton University

Meeting time: Mondays, 2:35-5:25 pm

Instructors: Gordon Davis & Geraldine Finn
Offices: Paterson Hall, Floor 3A (Philosophy Dept.)
Office hours: TBA
Email: Gordon.Davis@carleton.ca (* Please email from your 'cmail' or 'carleton.ca' address.)
CuLearn: Regular visits to the course website – on Carleton's CuLearn – are required. At a minimum, you are expected to check for updates that will usually be posted each week on either Friday evening or Saturday. However, *please note that not all of the course material will be posted on CuLearn* – it is not possible to complete the course through use of the website alone.

REQUIRED READINGS (some of which are available at Haven Books, in the coursepack – see (5))

1. Plato, *Symposium* (Jowett translation). This is available as an electronic resource on our library website. From the "Past Masters" database, click *Plato*, then click *Volume 1* at left, and then click 'Dialogues'. Click *Symposium*, which is in the list on the left-hand side. (Anyone who tires of this translation may instead use the Robin Waterfield (OUP) translation, parts of which are in (2)...))
2. Plato, *Selected Myths* (OUP 2004) – ch. 8 "The Winged Soul" (excerpt from Plato's *Phaedrus* dialogue). Available as an electronic resource at our library website. Find it by searching *Selected Myths*, or the name of the editor: Catalin Partenie. (This also has key passages from *Symposium*.)
3. Aristotle, excerpts from Bks VIII & IX of *Nicomachean Ethics* (Ross translation), also at "Past Masters" database on library website (click Aristotle, then click Volume II on the left, then 'Volume 2' again in the drop-down menu below that, i.e. the item between 'Frontmatter' and 'Endmatter'... then click *Nicomachean Ethics* in the middle of the left-hand-side list.)
4. Paul Williams, *Buddhist Thought* (Routledge, 2000) – ch. 7 "Mantrayana / Vajrayana" – available as an ebook at our library website. (Search in 'Catalogue'.)
5. **Coursepack**, available at Haven Books (corner of Sunnyside & Seneca, near campus), with excerpts from Simon May, Simone Weil, Monique Wittig, Linnell Secomb and Sigmund Freud.
6. *Optional background reading on Buddhism*: Mark Siderits, "The Buddha" (2011), at <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/buddha> ; and excerpts, TBA, from Charles Goodman, *Consequences of Compassion* (Oxford: OUP, 2009), an ebook @ library.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Concepts of love vary across cultures and traditions. In some, 'eros' predominates; we consider Greek examples of this, including one of the most famous literary examples – Plato's *Symposium*, which nonetheless leaves the range and scope of love(s) more complex than the word 'eros' suggests. Eros is closely connected to sexuality, and we consider sexuality from both historical and philosophical angles. Sexual norms through history, sexual orientation, sexual taboos and the role of sex in 'the good life' will be considered and discussed. Pathologies (e.g. as analyzed by Freud) will be explored, as well as ideals (e.g. in Plato, Aristotle, Buddhism and contemporary authors). Other forms of love will be considered, including religious ones from both Western and non-Western traditions. There is also this particular form of love to consider: 'philosophia', which means 'love of wisdom'. This will be both our subject and our method for considering the other subjects outlined here.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS:

(Please note that the order and/or timing of topics or readings may change – though with as much advance notice as possible. So long as no changes have been announced, the readings indicated below should be done *prior* to the date under which they appear; they will be discussed that day.) ... **BOLD** = test date.

Week 1 (January 5) Introduction / Types of Love / Ancient vs. Modern Contexts / Intro. to Socr. & Plato

Week 2 (January 12) Plato's *Symposium*, up to Phaedrus's opening speech (172-180c), & 'The Androgyne' (Aristophanes's speech, at 189-193 of *Symposium*, e.g. in Past Masters database)

Week 3 (January 19) Socrates and Diotima in Plato's *Symposium*, 201-212 (also called 'The Birth of Love' myth, chapter 4 in Plato's *Selected Myths*, i.e. source (2) above – 2004 ebook)

Week 4 (**January 26**) 'The Winged Soul' (ch. 8 in *Selected Myths*; 246-257 from Plato's *Phaedrus* dialogue) and two echoes of the *Symposium*: love of Alcibiades, death of Socrates

TEST on **JAN. 26**: **Multiple-choice test** (on Greek figures; notes @ CuLearn – to be read by Jan. 12)

Week 5 (February 2) Excerpts from Simon May and Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (TBA)

Week 6 (Feb. 9) 'Mantrayana / Vajrayana', chapter 7 in Paul Williams, *Buddhist Thought* (Routledge, 2000, ebook), on eros and compassion in Mahayana Buddhism

READING WEEK BREAK: *** no class on Feb. 16

Week 7 (Feb. 23) 'Love'. Simone Weil. *An Anthology*, pp. 290 – 296. 'The Category of Sex', *The Straight Mind*, pp. 1 – 8.

Week 8 (**March 2**) 'Levinas: Love, Justice and Responsibility'. *Philosophy and Love*, Chapter 4, pp. 58 – 74.

TEST on **MAR. 2**: **Multiple-choice test** (TBA; see notes @ CuLearn)

Week 9 (Mar. 9) 'Barthes: A Lover's (Internet) Discourses'. *Philosophy and Love*, Chapter 7, pp. 110 – 125.

Week 10 (Mar. 16) 'Amorous Politics: Between Derrida and Nancy'. *Philosophy and Love*, Chapter 9, pp. 142 – 156, and 'Conclusion', pp. 157 – 162.

Week 11 (**Mar. 23**) 'Family Romances' and 'A Special Type of Choice of Object Made by Men'. Freud, *On Sexuality*, pp. 221 – 242.

TEST on **MAR. 23**: Details TBA... This will be **TEST # 3** (see 'Evaluation' on next page)

Week 12 (Mar. 30) 'On the Universal Tendency to Debasement in the Sphere of Love'. Freud, *On Sexuality*, pp. 247 – 264.

Week 13 (April 6) 'The Taboo of Virginity'. Freud, *On Sexuality*, pp. 265 – 283.

APRIL 23 – Deadline for take-home exam

EVALUATION (w/ weights as percentage of total mark):

Test # 1	25 % (on myths, terms and personalities in ancient Greece & anc. Asia)
Test # 2	25 % (on Plato's dialogues, Buddhist themes, and related lectures)
Test # 3	25 % (on material from coursepack and related lectures)
Take-home exam	25 % (DUE April 23)

Additional instructions for the take-home (e.g. maximum & minimum word length) will be posted on CuLearn, in early April. Answers that are beyond the word limit will not be marked and will have to be resubmitted within a specified period of time. **It's your responsibility to check CuLearn, and your CU email account, each day following your submission, for replies – from us or a TA – about that, or perhaps about the formatting you've used, in case it needs correcting.**

UNIVERSITY POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:

According to the Undergraduate Calendar's definition (in section 14 of "University Regulations"), it constitutes *plagiarism* "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product work of another without expressly giving credit to another." It is the responsibility of each student to understand this definition, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding/abetting plagiarism by other students. Penalties for plagiarism are decided by the Dean's office, and can range from an automatic zero on the assignment to suspension or expulsion from the university.

OTHER POLICIES:

Devices in class are NOT ALLOWED (i.e. must be switched off)... and this *includes laptop computers*. In some classes early in term, notes will not need to be taken (and for this reason, laptops will not be necessary); but come prepared with pen and paper, for occasions when we recommend that notes be taken.

Submission of take-home exams: See instructions on CuLearn.

Presentation / formatting of exams: Save your document, with a doc. title indicating your name and topic, and in a format compatible with Word, which does not include 'open' formats such as 'odt'. (Submissions in 'odt' format will *not* be marked.) *Do not include a title page*; and include your name on p. 1.

Consultations re. exam prep.: Both teaching assistants and instructors will hold office hours, but will not be able to read drafts of take-home answers (and cannot necessarily conduct an entire consultation by email). If you feel you need help with writing, you can also contact the university's 'Writing Tutorial Service'.

Extensions: Extensions (or requests for an alternative date to write a test) will be granted only upon presentation of a medical certificate, or other documented emergency or crisis. *It is essential that we have documents that have been signed by a professional whose contact info. is well indicated.* Requests based on conflicts with other coursework will not be granted.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

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
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	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. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
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