

PHIL 3000/CLCV3011 – Topics in Ancient Philosophy

Carleton University, winter 2015

Tuesdays-Thursdays, 4:05-5:25pm, Tory 236

Professor: Annie Larivée

Office hours: 2:45-3:45pm on Tuesday and Thursday (or by appointment)

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Eros and Philia in Ancient Philosophy

I – COURSE DESCRIPTION

While few modern philosophers regard love as a subject worthy of consideration, *philia* and *erôs* were central themes of ancient philosophical reflection. In this course, we will explore the depth and richness of ancient ideas about human relationships in a diversity of contexts: love between friends, erotic love, the family, civic ‘friendship’, as well as self-love. Our exploration will focus primarily on the study of ancient texts but we will also discuss contemporary texts in order to enrich our understanding of the subject and better appreciate the relevance of ancient ideas in the current context.

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

II - REQUIRED TEXTS

The two following books are available at Haven Books: 43 Seneca Street (at Sunnyside), tel: 613-730-9888, info@havenbooks.ca

- 1) *Plato on Love: Lysis, Symposium, Phaedrus, Alcibiades* with selections from *Republic and the Laws*, Ed. C.D.C. Reeve, Hackett Publ., 2006. (Note: I will refer to it as the **Plato Reader**).
- 2) *Friendship. A Philosophical Reader*, N.K. Badhwar (ed.), Ithaca/London, Cornell U. Press, 1993. (I will refer to it as the **Friendship Reader**).

The other texts we will discuss over the semester will be available through **Ares** (online reserve system).

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. Students will know in advance which texts to read before class and are expected to be active participants in class discussions.

Attendance is mandatory! This course gives a lot of importance to participation. If you don't attend class on a regular basis, you will not be successful in this course. Please do take that into account before signing up.

Although it is a significant asset, previous training in ancient philosophy is not necessary to be successful in this course. All necessary background will be provided in the lectures. Whenever you have a question, please ask!

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 noticed in class ahead of time.

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

(See *Reading Schedule* for details!)

Week 1 (01/06, 08) INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (01/13, 15) EROS (1)

Theme of Tuesday lecture: *Paiderastia as a social practice*

Theme of Thursday discussion: *Love, how to explain it?*

Week 3 (01/20, 22) EROS (2)

Tuesday lecture: *Plato's critique of eros and of paiderastia*

Thursday discussion: *The ideal of 'platonic love' and the role of love in self-transformation*

Week 4 (01/27, 29) RELATION BETWEEN THE SEXES

Tuesday lecture: *Complementarity or similarity?*

Thursday discussion: *Tension between the sexes and 'gender trouble'*

Week 5 (02/3, 5) REPRODUCTION, CARE, SLAVERY

Tuesday lecture: *Reproduction, children, the care for the vulnerable*

Thursday discussion: *The oikos and slavery*

Week 6 (02/10, 12) THE FAMILY

Tuesday lecture: *The family: necessary and desirable... or not?*

Thursday discussion : *The corrupting effect of family*

(02/17-21) *Winter Break, no classes!*

Week 7 (02/24, 26) PHILIA (1)

Tuesday lecture: *the cause, nature and kinds of philia*

Thursday discussion: *Eros and philia, differences and similarities*

Week 8 (03/03, 05) PHILIA (2)

Tuesday lecture: *Lecture: Be kind or frank? How to really care for friends...*

Thursday discussion: *Special problems related to friendship*

Week 9 (03/10, 12) PHILAUTIA (SELF-LOVE): VIRTUE OR VICE?

Tuesday lecture: *Is philautia selfish?*

Thursday discussion: *The friend as 'another self' and self-sufficiency*

Week 10 (03/17, 19) ATTACHMENT, LOSS, GRIEF

Tuesday lecture: *Death, loss and detachment*

Thursday discussion: *Love and vulnerability*

Week 11 (03/24, 26) OTHERS AS A SOURCE OF TROUBLE AND NEGATIVE EMOTIONS

Tuesday lecture: *"Hell is other people!"* (Guest lecturer? to be confirmed)

Thursday discussion: *Tensions between self and community*

Week 12 (03/31, 4/2) CIVIC FRIENDSHIP

Tuesday lecture: *Peace and cosmopolitanism as philosophical ideals* (Guest lecturer?)

Thursday discussion : *Civic friendship*

[Week 13, 04/07

Potential make-up class –will be cancelled if we don't need to make up a class]

V - COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

- 1- 10 Reading Responses (10 Responses × 6 marks)... 60% (see description below)
- 2- Discussion facilitation: 20%
- 3- Attendance and participation: 20%

1- Reading responses: 60%

The ten reading responses aim to ensure you have done the readings and are ready to take an active part in the class discussion. *There will be no make-up for reading responses!!!* Your reading response must be handed in in class (NO E-MAIL SUBMISSION), at the end of each class. This weekly assignment is divided in two parts:

Part 1 – Discussion preparation (no more than one page, 4 marks):

In order to prepare for our weekly discussion (onThursdays), you will write a *Discussion Preparation Sheet* on the text(s) to be discussed that day. For each texts or groups of texts (Items a) and b)), include the following:

- 1- Identify the theme of the text(s) and summarize it in *one sentence, no more*.
- 2- Briefly present one problem you were confronted with while reading this/these text(s) (either because an idea was unclear or because you found it disputable).
- 3- For each text, briefly mention one idea that was of special interest *to you* and explain why you found it challenging/stimulating.

Part 2 – Diary (no more than half a page, 2 mark):

You are free to write whatever you want in this part (as long as it relates to the readings somehow). If a text had a powerful emotional effect on you, you may share your impressions, if the text reminded you of a concrete situation you witnessed or experienced, you can mention it. You may also try to make sense of your concrete/personal experience by using some of the ideas present in the text(s), or you may offer a philosophical critique of an idea or argument, etc.

***If you miss a Thursday class discussion (without medical justification), I will allow you to hand in ONE reading response (no more). You may leave it in the drop-box at the philosophy department (Paterson Hall, level 3 A) no later than the next day (Friday) at 4pm.

2- Discussion facilitation: 20%

The Thursday discussion will involve the whole class –participation to class discussions is essential in this course! However, each week, five students will be in charge of leading/facilitating the discussion. We will use their Reading Responses to get the discussion started. The five students who are in charge of the discussion for a given week should send me their Reading Response via e-mail the previous **Monday at the latest**. Note: a special attention should be paid to that specific Reading Response as it plays a central role in the grade you will get for that part of the course requirement.

3- Attendance and class participation: 20%

Attendance marks will be calculated as follows:

- Up to two missed classes: no penalty.
- 3 missed classes: -5%
- 4 missed classes: -10%
- 5 missed classes: -15%
- 6 missed classes: -20%

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If you have any **questions or concerns** do not hesitate to send me an e-mail! E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. Questions received via e-mail will receive quick responses.

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.

Bibliography

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- _____, *The Politics and the Constitution of Athens*, Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. Press,
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- _____, *The Hermeneutics of The Subject : Lectures at the College de France 1981-1982*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, trans. G. Burchell, (2001) 2005.
- _____, "Friendship as a way of life", "Sexual choice, Sexual act", "The Social triumph of the sexual will", "Sex, power, and the politics of identity", "Sexuality and solitude" in: *Ethics : Subjectivity And Truth. Dits et écrits. English Selections vol. 1*, P. Rabinow (ed) ; trans. R. Hurley and Others, New York, New Press, distributed by W.W. Norton, 1997.
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- PAKALUK, M. (ed.), *Other Selves. Philosophers on Friendship*, Indianapolis/Cambridge, Hackett, 1991.
- PRICE, A.W., *Love and Friendship in Plato and Aristotle*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1989.
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- STERN-GILLET, S., *Aristotle's Philosophy of Friendship*, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1995.
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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/5riting-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735