

**PHIL 1700 – Philosophy of Love and Sex**  
Carleton University, winter 2018  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05-5:25pm

Professor: Annie Larivée  
Office hours: 2:40-3:40, Tuesdays and Thursdays (or by appointment)  
Office: 3A49 Paterson Hall, Email: annie\_larivee@carleton.ca  
Tel.: (613) 520-2600 ext. 3799  
Teaching assistants: TBA

## **Philosophy of Love and Sex**

### **I – COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Love is sometimes described as a form of madness, a formidable irrational force that overpowers our will, a condition that we fall into and that can bring either bliss or destruction. In this course, we will challenge this view by adopting a different starting point. Through a survey of the Western philosophical tradition, we will explore the possibility that, far from being beyond intelligibility, love (and sex) can be understood and that an ‘art of love’ can be cultivated. Our investigation will lead us to question many aspects of our experience of love by considering its socially constructed nature, its possible objects, and its effects –a process that will help us to better appreciate the role of love and sex in a flourishing human life. We will pursue our inquiry in a diversity of contexts such as friendship, romantic love, family love, and self-love. Exploring ancient and contemporary texts that defend diverging views on love will help us cultivate precious philosophical abilities such as intellectual flexibility, definitional clarity and critical awareness.

Each class is devoted to the exploration of one particular question based on assigned readings.

### **II - REQUIRED TEXTS**

All required texts are available through **Ares** (Carleton Library’s online reserve system). You don’t need to purchase anything.

### **III - METHODOLOGY**

The course consists 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.

	Theme of the class	Assigned readings (M=Mandatory, O=Optional)
<b>Week 1 INTRODUCTION: Love and philosophy in Ancient Greece</b>		
Class 1 (01/09)	Introduction	(M)- Erich Fromm, "Is Love an Art?"
Class 2 (01/11)	Love and sex in Greek mythology; Greek Love ( <i>paiderastia</i> )	
<b>Week 2 PLATONIC LOVE</b>		
Class 3 (01/16)	Different views on Love in Plato's <i>Symposium</i>	(M)- Plato's, <i>Symposium</i> , excerpts (Aristophanes' speech, 189a-193d; Diotima's speech and Alcibiades' praise of Socrates, 193d-212c-en: p. 250-54 + p. 263-86 of E-book)
Class 4 (01/18)	Platonic Love and self-transformation in the <i>Phaedrus</i>	
<b>Week 3 FRIENDSHIP, ANCIENT AND MODERN</b>		
Class 5 (01/23)	Aristotle on the three different kinds of friendship ( <i>philia</i> )	(M)- Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethic</i> , Book VIII (p. 127-145)
Class 6 (01/25)	Aristotle on problems with friends; Modern friendship	
<b>Week 4 LOVE AND SELF-LOVE</b>		
Class 7 (01/30)	Self-love, the primary relationship; True and false types of self-love	(M)- N. Branden, "At the Core of Romantic Love: The Muttnik Principle"
Class 8 (02/01)	The role of love in self-esteem and self-love	
<b>Week 5 THE INTELLIGENCE OF EMOTIONS + TEST 1</b>		
Class 9 (02/06)	When reason and emotions are in conflict...	(O) - M. Nussbaum, "Emotions as Judgments of Value"
Class 10 (02/08)	<b>TEST 1</b>	
<b>On all material covered since class 1, and on assigned readings. True/False + multiple choice test.</b>		
<b>Week 6 FAMILY LOVE</b>		
Class 11 (02/13)	Affection and love in the family	(O) - M. Nussbaum, "Love, Care, and Dignity"
Class 12 (02/15)	Critique of family love: the family as a site of abuse and injustice	
(02/19-23)	<b>Winter Break no classes!</b>	

	Theme of classes	Assigned readings for each week
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>THE IDEAL OF ROMANTIC LOVE</b>	
<b>Class 13</b> (02/27)	What is romantic love?	(M) - R. Nozick, "Love's Bond" (O) - A. Sobel, "Two Views of Love" (O) - I. Singer, "Appraisal and Bestowal"
<b>Class 14</b> (03/01)	Nozick's romantic 'we'	
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>CRITIQUE OF THE MYTH OF ROMANTIC LOVE</b>	
<b>Class 15</b> (03/06)	Reason based and non-reason based accounts of romantic love	(O) - R. Halwani, "The Basis of Romantic Love" (O) - bell hooks, "Romance, Sweet Love" (M) - R. West, "The Harms of Consensual Sex" (O) - S. De Beauvoir, "The Woman in Love"
<b>Class 16</b> (03/08)	The traditional script of love and desire	
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF (ROMANTIC) LOVE + TEST 2</b>	
<b>Class 17</b> (03/13)	Paraphilia (objectophilia, zoophilia); Polyamory; Asexuality; Queer orientations	(M) - A. Shotwell, "Ethical Polyamory, Responsibility, and Significant Otherness" (O) - K. Rudy, "LGBTQ... Z?" (O) - Documentary on Objectophilia: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qnlpkiBTM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qnlpkiBTM</a>
<b>Class 18</b> (03/15)	<b>TEST 2</b>	<b>On all material covered since test 1, and assigned readings. True/False + multiple choice test.</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF LOVE AND SEX</b>	
<b>Class 19</b> (03/20)	Social construction of emotions, sexual orientation, the desirable and sexed body	(M) - M. Foucault, Chapter 1 of <i>History of Sexuality</i> , vol. 1. <i>An Introduction</i> (M) - A. Dworkin, "Possession" (O) - M. Nussbaum, "Constructing love, desire, and care"
<b>Class 20</b> (03/22)	Social construction of gender; Trans identities	
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>SEX ACTS AND OBJECTIFICATION</b>	
<b>Class 21</b> (03/27)	When is objectification wrong?	(M) - M. Nussbaum, "Objectification" (O) - A. Goldman, "Plain Sex" (O) - S. Miller, "BDSM" (O) - Th. Nagel, "Sexual Perversion"
<b>Class 22</b> (03/29)	Sex and violence; Sexual perversions; BDSM	
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>SEX IN THE SOCIAL SPHERE</b>	
<b>Class 23</b> (04/03)	The anti-porn/pro-porn debate	(O) - C. MacKinnon, "Pornography, Civil Rights, and Speech" (M) - J. O'Connell Davidson, "The Rights and Wrongs of Prostitution"
<b>Class 24</b> (04/05)	Is selling or buying sex morally wrong?	
<b>Class 25</b> (04/10)	Potential make-up class	Will be cancelled if there is no need to make up a class
<p>The <b>FINAL EXAM</b> will take place during the official examination period in April (14 - 26)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It will be on <b>all course material</b> covered since class 1 with an emphasis on material covered since Test 2.</li> <li>- Besides the <b>multiple choices and true/false</b> section, it <b>will include an essay section</b> on assigned readings.</li> <li>- A <b>preparation sheet</b> for the essay section of the test will be made available at the beginning of the semester.</li> </ul>		

**V - COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

- 1- Test 1 (multiple choice and true/false) :.....20% (on material covered since class 1)
- 2- Test 2 (multiple choice and true/false): ..... 20% (on material covered since Test 1)
- 3- Final exam section 1((multiple choice and true/false): ..... 30% (on all material covered since class 1 with emphasis on material covered since Test 2)
- 4- Final exam section 2, Essay part:.....30% (on assigned readings)

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 (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

### **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 Final Exams:**

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

### **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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### **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*). 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. 6	Classes start.
Sept. 19	Last day for registration and course changes for Fall term and Fall/Winter (two-term) courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 9	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 23-27	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for summative or final examinations in Fall term courses before the official examination period.
Dec. 8	Last day of Fall term classes. <b>Classes follow a Monday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term courses. 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 a Fall term course.
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 8	Classes begin.
Jan. 19	Last day for registration and course changes in the Winter term.
Jan. 31	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from Winter term courses or from the Winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 19	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 19-23	Winter Break – no classes.
Mar. 27	Last day for summative or final examinations in Winter term or two-term courses before the official examination period.
Mar. 30	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 11	Last day of two-term and Winter term classes. <b>Classes follow a Friday schedule.</b> Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for Winter term courses.
Apr. 14-26	Final examinations for Winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 26	All take home examinations are due on this day.

### **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising">www.carleton.ca/academicadvising</a> 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/">http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/</a> 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735