

**PHIL5000B  
PHILOSOPHY AND SEX**

**PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN  
PA3A61 EXT 1783**

**DESCRIPTION**

Is there such a thing as 'sex'? If so, what kind of a 'thing' is it? What is its ontological status? How have philosophers conceptualized sex? Have philosophers conceptualized sex? What is the specificity of the concept? How does it function as a meaningful element in philosophical discourse? Does it function as a meaningful element in philosophical discourse? And if not why not? What exactly is the relationship between philosophy and sex? This course will explore these questions through a close reading of the following required texts.

**REQUIRED TEXTS.**

1. *Plato and Sex*. Stella Sandford. Polity Press, 2010.
2. *The History of Sexuality. Vol. 1*. Michel Foucault. Vintage Books, orig.1978.

Both books are available from **Allbooks**, 327, Rideau Street, next to the Bytowne Cinema. Open 10:00 am – 9:00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9:00 pm Sun. Tel: 613 789 9544.

3. 'The Category of Sex'. Monique Wittig. *The Straight Mind*. Beacon Press, 1992, pp.1 – 8. Photocopy made available by instructor.

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 10%).

**EVALUATION (provisional)**

Seminar	30%
Essay	40%
Final Exam	30%

**SEMINARS:** All students are responsible for at least one seminar presentation. Seminar instructions are attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual presentation(s) as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

**ESSAY: Due on or before 23 APRIL 2016**

12 – 14 double-spaced typed pages on a topic of your choice to be determined in consultation with the professor.

**TAKE-HOME EXAM: Due on or before 23 APRIL 2016**

Distributed in the last class.

**OFFICE HOURS by appointment <geraldine.finn@carleton.ca>**

## COURSE OUTLINE

- week 1**      **Introduction** and assignment of seminar responsibilities.
- week 2**      **What is Sex?**  
*Plato and Sex* (Sandford). Introduction, pp. 1 – 10.  
 ‘The Category of Sex’ (Wittig), pp. 1 – 8.
- week 3**      **Sex and Genos** (*Republic*)  
*Plato and Sex*. Chapter 1.
- week 4**      **The Origin of Sex: Aristophanes, Freud and Lacan** (*Symposium*)  
*Plato and Sex*. Chapter 2.
- week 5**      **‘Eros’ and ‘Sexuality’, Plato and Freud** (*Symposium*)  
*Plato and Sex*. Chapter 3.
- week 6**      **‘I, a Man, am Pregnant and Give Birth’** (*Symposium*).  
*Plato and Sex*. Chapter 4.
- week 7**      **NO CLASS—WINTER BREAK.**
- week 8**      **Of Gods and Men: The Natural Beginning of Sex** (*Timaeus*).  
*Plato and Sex*. Chapter 5.
- week 9**      **Coda: The Idea of ‘Sex’**  
*Plato and Sex*, pp.157 – 165.
- week 10**     ***The History of Sexuality*** (Foucault).  
 We “Other Victorians”, *History*, Part One.  
 The Repressive Hypothesis, *History*, Part Two.  
 The Incitement to Discourse, *History*, Part Two, Chapter 1.
- week 11**     ***The History of Sexuality***  
 The Perverse Implantation, *History*, Part Two ,Chapter 2.  
 Scientia Sexualis, *History*, Part Three.
- week 12**     ***The History of Sexuality***  
 The Deployment of Sexuality, *History*, Part Four.  
 Objective, *History*, Part Four, Chapter 1.  
 Method, *History*, Part Four, Chapter 2.
- week 13**     ***The History of Sexuality***  
 Domain, *History*, Part Four, Chapter 3.  
 Periodization, *History*, Part Four, Chapter 4.

**week 14**     ***The History of Sexuality***  
Right of Death and Power over Life, *History*, Part Five.

**DISTRIBUTION OF TAKE-HOME EXAM – DUE 23 APRIL 2016**

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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

1. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
2. Identify 2 or 3 aspects of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty** and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
3. Summarise the **principal argument** of the assigned reading(s) in 2 or 3 sentences.
4. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of all of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of the class.

## 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](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. 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 <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
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	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> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735