



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

PHIL 259 Lec 02 – “Sex, Love and Death”

Fall Term 2017

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 11am-12:15pm in SA 106

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| Instructor: David Boutland | TA: Nima Khodabandeh |
| Office: SS 1205 | Office: SS 1227 |
| Office hours: W 12-1pm, or by appointment | Office Hours: M 11am-12pm, or by apt. |
| Phone: 403-220-4328 | Phone: 403-220-6463 |
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Course description:

The course examines philosophical views surrounding love, sex, and death, and how these concepts influence our lives. We will begin the course by discussing the nature of erotic love and its historical development. The essential starting point for looking at the nature of love is Plato’s *Symposium*. This will be followed by a historical journey across a number of notable views regarding the nature of love, including Ovid, Augustine, Heloise and Abelard, Andreas Capellanus, John Milton, Shakespeare, G.W.F. Hegel, Arthur Schopenhauer, H.B. Stendhal, Friedrich Nietzsche, Simone de Beauvoir, Robert Nozick, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Solomon. While questions of value and morality will be an underlying theme throughout, the section on erotic love will end with addressing some ethical issues surrounding erotic love and sex, including the permissibility of sexual acts, same-sex marriage, pornography, sexual objectification and prostitution. The authors we will look at in this section include Anne Fausto-Sterling, Greta Christina, Catherine MacKinnon, Judith Butler, Sally Haslanger, Frederick Elliston and Raja Halwani. In the second part of the course, we will turn to the issue of death. We will start by examining the basic definitions of death and personhood, followed by discussion surrounding the question of whether death is bad for the one who dies. Finally, we will end by looking at some ethical issues surrounding death, including the wrongness of killing, euthanasia, and suicide. The authors we will look at in this section include Plato, Epicurus, Lucretius, Michel de Montaigne, Jean-Paul Satre, Thomas Nagel, John Perry, James Rachels, Bonnie Steinbock, Phillappa Foot, Jonathan Glover, Ronald Dworkin, Robert Nozick, John Rawls and Judith Jarvis Thomson.

Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Texts:

- 1) *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*, ed. Robert Solomon and Kathleen Higgins, University Press of Kansas, 1991
- 2) *Philosophy and Death*, ed. Samantha Brennan and Robert Stainton, Broadview Press, 2009
- 3) Additional assigned reading is available through Library e-journals. These are posted as pdf files on D2L, along with citation information.

Course Assessment:

There will be two short papers (approx. 3 pages), one in-class midterm exam and one take-home final exam. The papers will be on assigned topics from the readings. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam. There is no grade for participation, although students who regularly attend and participate in tutorial will be eligible for a 1% bonus.

| <i>Weight</i> | <i>Assignment</i> | <i>Due dates</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 20% | Paper 1 | October 10 |
| 20% | Midterm | October 26 |
| 30% | Paper 2 | November 23 |
| 30% | Take-home Final | December 11 |

Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class. Late work will be penalized one letter-grade step per day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. For example, an A- paper will receive a B+ if submitted within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, and a B if submitted between 24 and 48 hours after the assignment deadline. Late assignments can be submitted by email but will not receive comments. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any instance thereof – downloading papers from the Internet, copying or paraphrasing material from a book, web-site, or a fellow student – will be reported to the Faculty and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment. Even copying one or two sentences constitutes plagiarism.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the U of C calendar:

- A: Excellent — superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
- B: Good — clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
- C: Satisfactory — basic understanding of the subject matter.
- D: Minimal pass — marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
- F: Fail — unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

The quality of writing will be a component in grading.

Grading scale:

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|----|--------------|---|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 97-100 | A | 93-96 | A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 | B | 83-86 | B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 | C | 73-76 | C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 | D | 60-66 | | |
| F | 59 and below | | | | |

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Allen Habib (anhabib@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen (tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>