



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 259 Lec 1 – “Love, Sex and Death”

Winter Term 2016
Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 12:00-12:50 pm in AD 142

Instructor: David Boutland
Office: SS 1220
Office hours: T 12:30-2pm, or by appointment
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TA: Teppei Hayeshi
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Office Hours: W 1:30-2:30pm, or by apt.
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Texts:

- 1) *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*, ed. Robert Solomon and Kathleen Higgins, Univ. 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 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, Sigmund Freud, Karen Horney, 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. 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, Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, Thomas Nagel, John Perry, James Rachels, Bonnie Steinbock, Phillippa Foot, Jonathan Glover, Ronald Dworkin, Robert Nozick, John Rawls and Judith Jarvis Thomson.

Assessment:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
20%	Paper 1	February 12
20%	Midterm	February 29
30%	Paper 2	March 30
30%	Take-home Final	April 18

To pass this course, you must complete all assignments. 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. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam.

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>

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:

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				

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, 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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- 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 current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **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 instructor of the course.

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.

Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2016:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca)