

The University of Calgary
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 259 Lecture 01
Philosophy of Sex, Love, and Death
Fall 2009 – E. Brake

Instructor: Elizabeth Brake
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Texts:

- 1) *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*, ed. Robert Solomon, Kathleen Higgins, University Press of Kansas, 1991
- 2) *The Subjection of Women*, John Stuart Mill, ed. Susan Moller Okin, Hackett, 1988
- 3) Additional reading posted on the Blackboard web-site (details below)

Course description:

This course will examine philosophical views of the nature of sex and love and of the relation between them. It will also consider gender equality and issues in the ethics of sex. We will conclude by examining the definition of death, the ethics of euthanasia and suicide, and whether death is bad for the one who dies.

Assessment:

<i>Weight</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due dates</i>
5%	Tutorial participation	N/A
20% each	3 papers	October 2, October 24, December 4
25%	Mid-term	November 9
10%	In-class final	December 7

To pass the class, you must complete all assignments. Late work will be penalised 3 points a day, unless there is a documented excuse such as illness or family emergency. I will count e-mailed assignments as late until I receive a hard copy. Assignments handed in outside class must be placed in the drop box on the 12th floor of Social Sciences.

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 of Humanities and I will assign an F for the course or the assignment. Even copying one or two sentences constitutes plagiarism.

As stated in the University Calendar, letter grades reflect the following standards:

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.

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				

There is a Blackboard site for this course. Log in at <<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>> using your U of C e-mail username and password. I will use Blackboard

- to store grades

- to make announcements

- to post course documents (this outline, assignments, handouts, assigned reading).

I will accommodate students with disabilities. If you need accommodations, you should contact the *Disability Resource Centre* (220-8237) as well as informing me.

Reading schedule (specific page numbers will be given in class):

Weeks 1-2: Sept 11, 14, 16, 18 Plato, *Symposium*; Nussbaum, “The Speech of Alcibiades”

Week 3-4: Sept 21, 23, 25, 28 Changing understandings of love: Christian and courtly love, lust, belonging, and illusion: Ovid, Augustine, Capellanus, Shakespeare, Hegel, Sappho, Schopenhauer, Stendhal, and Irving Singer (assignments may be only part of the textbook selection)

Week 4: Sept 30, Oct 2 Love and marriage, love and friendship: Abelard and Heloise, Milton, Nietzsche

Week 5: Oct 5, 7, 9 Love as pathology, ideology, or ‘struggle’ – Freud, Horney, Goldman, Lawrence, Sartre

Week 6: Oct 14, 16 Gender, love, and marriage: Rousseau, *Emile*; Rapaport, “Rousseau and the Radical Feminists; Mill, *Subjection of Women*, Ch. 1

Week 7: Oct 19, 21, 23 Gender, love, and marriage: Mill, *Subjection of Women*; de Beauvoir, Firestone

Week 8: Oct 26, 28, 30 Contemporary philosophy of love: Robert Nozick, Laurence Thomas, Robert Solomon

Week 9, 10: Nov 2, 4, 6 Natural law and sexual ethics: John Finnis, "The Good of Marriage," Stephen Macedo, "Homosexuality and the Conservative Mind," (on BB)

- Mid-term and Reading Week -

Week 11: Nov 16, 18, 20 Sexual ethics: Alan Goldman, "Plain Sex," Kant, Nussbaum, "Objectification" (on BB)

Week 12: Nov 23, 25, 27 Defining death and the morality of euthanasia: The President's Commission, Glover (on BB)

Week 13: Nov 30, Dec 2, 4 The badness of death and the question of suicide: Epicurus, Suits, Camus (on BB)

Week 13: Nov 7 In-class test

Assigned reading to download from Blackboard:

Immanuel Kant, selections from *The Metaphysics of Morals* (1797-98), translated by Mary Gregor, Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1996 and from *Lectures on Ethics* (ca. 1762-94), translated by Peter Heath, edited by Peter Heath and J. B. Schneewind, Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Martha Nussbaum, "Objectification," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (Autumn, 1995), pp. 249-291.

Alan Goldman, "Plain Sex," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 6, No. 3 (Spring, 1977), pp. 267-287.

John Finnis, "The Good of Marriage and the Morality of Sexual Relations: Some Philosophical and Historical Observations," *American Journal of Jurisprudence*, Vol. 42 (1997), pp. 97-134.

Stephen Macedo, 1995, "Homosexuality and the Conservative Mind," *Georgetown Law Review* 84, pp. 261-300.

President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research, "Defining Death," published by the President's Commission, 1981.

Jonathan Glover, "The Sanctity of Life," in *Causing Death and Saving Lives*, Pelican, 1977, pp. 39-59.

Epicurus, "Letter to Menoeceus" (internet).

David Suits, "Why Death Is Not Bad for the One Who Died," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (Jan., 2001), pp. 69-84.

Albert Camus, selections from *The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays*, Vintage Books, 1959.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.