



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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

**Fall Term 2011**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 2-3pm in A142

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Nicole Wyatt	<b>TA:</b>	Jóhannes Dagsson
<b>Office:</b>	SS 1214	<b>Office:</b>	SS 1215
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-3166	<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-6465
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca">nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:jdagsson@ucalgary.ca">jdagsson@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays 3:30-4:30pm	<b>Office Hours:</b>	Fridays 10-11am

***Texts***

- Solomon, Robert and Kathleen Higgins, editors. 1991. *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*. University Press of Kansas.
- Brennan, Samantha and Robert Stainton, editors. 2009. *Philosophy and Death*. Broadview Press.
- Additional readings will be made available online.

***Description***

This course is organized in two parts. The first addresses issues raised by sex and love, including questions such as what is sex, what is love, and in particular, what is erotic love, what is the connection between marriage and erotic love, and what is the role of sex in love. The second concerns philosophical issues connected with death, including such questions as what is death, exactly, who is death bad for, and what would it mean for a person to survive their own death.

What unifies these two subjects is their centrality to the human experience. Relationships with others, especially those we characterize as loving relationships, are often seen as central to human lives: we are, as they say, social animals. Consciousness of our own mortality is similarly seen as a key element in human lives: in particular many major religions hold the possibility of surviving death as central to their theology.

This course takes up both historical and contemporary philosophical discussions of these two important topics. In doing so it serves as a broad introduction to philosophy including topics in value theory (e.g. What makes murder wrong? Is marriage a beneficial institution?) and metaphysics (e.g. What is a person and what does the death of a person consist in? Is there a difference between lust and erotic love?).

The primary objective of this course is for students to develop skills in critical and systematic thinking and argument analysis and assessment.

A reading schedule will be posted on the course website.

## **Evaluation**

There will be 10 writing assignments of approximately 300 words in length.

### **Assignment Due Dates**

Assignment 1	Monday September 26th
Assignment 2	Monday October 3rd
Assignment 3	Monday October 17th
Assignment 4	Monday October 24th
Assignment 5	Monday October 31st
Assignment 6	Monday November 7th
Assignment 7	Monday November 14th
Assignment 8	Monday November 21st
Assignment 9	Monday November 28th
Assignment 10	Friday December 9th

### **Grading**

- Each assignment will be worth 10%.
- Later virtue will be allowed to redeem earlier sin.
- Each assignment will be graded on both content *and* quality of presentation, which includes spelling and grammar.
- There will be NO Registrar-scheduled final exam.

On each assignment you will receive a letter grade reflecting the level of mastery of the material shown by the work you submit. According to the Calendar, letter grades are defined as follows:

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.
F	Fail—Unsatisfactory performance.

Slash grades, e.g. B/A are possible. In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0; a / grade is worth .5 more than the lower letter grade) and averaged according to the weights given above. *Ceteris paribus*, the final mark is the letter grade corresponding to this average plus a margin of 0.1 (i.e., an average of 3.9 earns an A, an average of 3.6 an A -, etc.). The A+ grade is reserved for exceptional work.

### **Late policy**

Failure to submit an assignment by the due date without special permission will normally result in a mark of zero. Students who cannot submit an assignment or a test due to medical reasons or other reasonable grounds should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Course website**

A course website on U of C's BlackBoard server has been set up. You will be automatically registered if you're registered in the class. To access the BlackBoard site, you can either go directly to [blackboard.ucalgary.ca](http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca) and log in with your UCIT account name and password, or you can access it through the myUofC portal ([my.ucalgary.ca](http://my.ucalgary.ca); log in with your eID). If you don't have an eID or UCIT account, see [elearn.ucalgary.ca/help.html](http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/help.html).

## **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 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, 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.

## **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING & STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, phone 403-220-3580 or email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Email Contact Addresses for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:  
[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)   [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)  
[arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)   [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)