



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 259 Lec 01 – “Sex, Love and Death”

Fall Term 2013

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:00-11:50 in EEEL 161

**Instructor:** Philip Puszczalowski

**Office:** SS 1252

**Phone:** 403-220-5535

**Email:** [pjpuszcz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pjpuszcz@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** MWF 12:00pm-1:00pm

**Teaching Assistant:** Arlin Daniel

**Office:** SS 1239

**Phone:** 403-220-6465

**Email:** [arlin.daniel@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arlin.daniel@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:15-12:15

### ***Course Description***

This course aims to examine love, sex, and death from a philosophical perspective. By reflecting on various questions such as: “What is the nature of love?”, “Is death bad?”, and “What counts as ‘sex?’”, students will be introduced to the difficulties inherent in these topics.

### ***Required Texts***

#### *Symposium*

Nehamas, Alexander and Woodruff, Paul (trans.), Hackett Publishing, 1989.

#### *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*

Solomon, Robert C. and Higgins, Kathleen M. (ed.), University Press of Kansas, 1991.

#### *Philosophy and Death*

Brennan, Samantha and Stainton, Robert J. (ed.), Broadview Press, 2010.

Additional materials will be indicated via the Blackboard site for this class.

Available at: <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>

### ***Evaluation***

Participation: 5%

Mini-Essay #1: 15% **Monday, October 7th**

Mini-Essay #2: 15% **Wednesday, November 13th**

Mini-Essay #3: 15% **Friday, December 6th**

Midterm: 40% **Wednesday, November 6th AND Friday, November 8th**

Final Exam: 10% **Wednesday, December 4th**

With the exception of the credit earned for participation, the entire mark will involve being graded on written work. Naturally, standards for essays prepared outside class will be much higher than those for in-class exams.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

*Participation:*

I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for giving me evidence that you are. This evidence can be provided through participating in the weekly tutorials. Attending tutorials are an important part of the course as they allow you to get a firmer grasp on the material discussed in lecture, and provide you with an opportunity to ask and discuss questions that the lecture might not address. Merely attending the tutorials will not count as evidence. You must participate in tutorial in order to receive marks.

*Mini-Essays:*

There will be **3** mini-essays due throughout the course. The first will deal with love, the second with sex, and the third with death. You are to philosophically examine a problem or question of your own choosing. **Topics will not be provided.** It is **HIGHLY** recommended that you get your topic approved by either myself or the TA. Doing so will allow us to ensure that you are on the right track, and will help you to avoid common errors.

Each mini-essay is to be 3 pages in length. Please use standard essay format – i.e. 12-point font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, etc.

*Midterm:*

The midterm will test you on the sections covering Love and Sex. It will be a 2 day midterm. The first day of the midterm will consist of matching questions and short answer questions. The second day of the midterm will consist of an essay question.

*Final Exam:*

The final exam will be written in class and will test you on the section covering Death. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

***Grading Method***

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the following scale:

95-100% = A+	85-94% = A	81-84% = A-
78-80% = B+	75-77% = B	71-74% = B-
68-70% = C+	65-67% = C	61-64% = C-
58-60% = D+	50-57% = D	0-49% = F

***Policy on Late Assignments***

The midterm and final exam are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late. Late mini-essays are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A- paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Please submit late papers in the Philosophy Department drop box – before 4pm – located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building.

### 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

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for 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. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- **General Academic Concerns** – Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **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.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2013:

Chris Framarin [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Lorraine Markotic [lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

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