



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

## PHIL 259 L01 – “Sex, Love and Death”

Fall Term 2019  
Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 12-12:50pm in ST 145

**Instructor:** David Boutland  
**Office:** SS 1205  
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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 when considering the nature of love is Plato's *Symposium*. This will be followed by a historical survey across a number of notable views on 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. We will then turn our focus to issues surrounding sex and sexuality. We start by assessing the concepts of sex and gender, exploring the history of these categories and the problems to which they give rise. We will explore a number of ethical issues regarding sex and sexuality, including the permissibility of sexual acts, 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 final 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 Sartre, Thomas Nagel, John Perry, James Rachels, Bonnie Steinbock, Philippa Foot, Jonathan Glover, Ronald Dworkin, Robert Nozick, John Rawls and Judith Jarvis Thomson.

### Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

**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, 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 participate in tutorial will be eligible for a 1% bonus.

| <b><i>Weight</i></b> | <b><i>Assignment</i></b> | <b><i>Due dates</i></b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>20%</b>           | Paper 1                  | October 4               |
| <b>20%</b>           | Midterm                  | October 18              |
| <b>30%</b>           | Paper 2                  | November 22             |
| <b>30%</b>           | Take-home Final          | December 10             |

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.

**Papers**

Paper topics will be given well in advance of the due date. Papers are to be approximately 1000 words. Your essay must be grammatically correct, with correct punctuation and spelling. Publication information must be provided for any source you use, in any commonly used format you prefer.

**Midterm**

A midterm exam will be given during regular class time. The exam will focus on the material assigned in the first half of the course. A student arriving late for an exam will not be given extra time to complete it. A student who fails to show up for the scheduled exam without an excuse accepted by me will receive a grade of "F" (0%).

## Take-Home Final

The take-home final will be made available on the last day of class, Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. A hard copy of your final must be submitted to the course dropbox in the Philosophy Department (SS 12<sup>th</sup> floor) by 4pm on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Extensions will be given under special circumstances only.

## Tutorial

Consistent attendance and participation in tutorials is expected. Students that regularly attend and participate in tutorial will be eligible for a 1% bonus on their final grade.

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic 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 |

## **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://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/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html)

## **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at

[ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines](http://ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

## **Academic Advising**

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [phil.ucalgary.ca](http://phil.ucalgary.ca). Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

## **Writing Assessment and Support**

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://ucalgary.ca/ssc).

## **Online Resources and Electronic Devices**

Important information and communication about this course may be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit [ucalgary.service-now.com/it](http://ucalgary.service-now.com/it) for how-to information and technical assistance.

The instructor reserves the right to establish specific course policies regarding the use of electronic devices. If permitted, the use of devices must be exclusively for instructional purposes, and without disruption to the instructor or fellow students. 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.

## **Academic Misconduct/Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

### **University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](https://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).