



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 259 Lec 01 – “Sex, Love and Death”
Winter Term 2010**

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 1400-1450 in ST 132

Instructor

Nicole Wyatt
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Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:30pm,
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Teaching Assistant

Caleb Lee
Social Sciences 1215
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Office Hours: By appointment

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.

Description

This course is organized in two parts. The first 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. The second addresses issues raised by sex and love, including questions such as 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.

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?). As in any philosophy course, students will be encouraged to develop skills in critical and systematic thinking and argument analysis in addition to knowledge of the texts studied.

A reading schedule will be posted on the course website.

Evaluation

There will be 8 short writing assignments, and a take home final exam. Tutorial participation will be graded. There will not be a Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment 1	Friday Jan 29 nd
Assignment 2	Friday Feb 5 th
Assignment 3	Friday Feb 12 st
Assignment 4	Friday March 5 th
Assignment 5	Friday March 12 th
Assignment 6	Friday March 19 th
Assignment 7	Friday March 26 th
Assignment 8	Friday April 9 th

Take Home Final Distributed Friday April 14th, Due Wednesday April 21st.

Grading

1. *Ceteris paribus*, the assignments will be collectively worth 40% of the grade, tutorial participation will be worth 10%, and the take home final exam will be worth 50% of the grade. However, students must receive a passing grade on the exam to pass the course.
2. Later virtue will be allowed to redeem earlier sin.

On each assignment and exam question 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.).

Late policy

Assignments will not normally be accepted after the deadlines unless special permission has been given by the instructor. Failure to submit an assignment or test on time 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 and log in with your UCIT account name and password, or you can access it through the myUofC portal (my.ucalgary.ca; log in with your eID). If you don't have an eID or UCIT account, see 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 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.