



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 259 Lec 1 – “Love, Sex and Death”

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm in A140

Instructor: David Boutland
Office: SS 1235
Office hours: T 10am-12pm, or by appointment
Phone: 403-220-6464
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TA: Lee Elkin
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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 Blackboard under ‘External Links’, along with citation information.

Course description:

The course will examine the philosophical views surrounding love, sex, and death, and how these concepts influence our lives. We will begin the course by looking closely at the nature of erotic love and its historical development. The essential starting point for looking at the nature of love is Plato’s *Symposium*. This will be followed by a historical journey across a number of notable views regarding the nature of love, including Ovid, Augustine, Heloise and Abelard, Andreas Capellanus, John Milton, G.W.F. Hegel, Arthur Schopenhauer, H.B. Stendhal, Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, Karen Horney, Simone de Beauvoir, Robert Nozick, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Solomon. While questions of value and morality will be an underlying theme throughout, the section on erotic love will end with addressing some vital ethical issues surrounding erotic love and sex, including the permissibility of sexual acts, same-sex marriage and sexual objectification. In the second 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 vital ethical issues surrounding death, including the wrongness of killing, euthanasia, and suicide. The authors we will look at in this section include (but are not limited to) Plato, Epicurus, Lucretius, Montaigne, Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Satre, Thomas Nagel, John Perry, James Rachels, Bonnie Steinbock, Richard Brant, Jonathan Glover, Jeff McMahan, and ‘The Philosopher’s Brief’.

Assessment:

<u>Weight</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due dates</u>
20%	Paper 1	February 4
20%	Mid-term	March 1
30%	Paper 2	March 27
30%	Take-home Final	April 15

To pass this course, you must complete all assignments. 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.

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>

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

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the U of C 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				

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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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.

SAFEWALK

Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and LRT station. Or use a Campus Help phone.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2013:

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