



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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

Winter Term 2014

Course Outline

Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm in A140

Instructor: Nicole Wyatt
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Phone: 403-220-3166
Email: nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-1330pm
or by appointment

TA: Brian Hanley
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Course 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 are 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 Class Blackboard site.

Required Texts

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening and other Stories*. Broadview Press. 2011. ISBN 978-1-55111-349-4

Graff and Birkenstein. *They Say I Say*. 2e. Norton. 2009. ISBN 978-0393933611

Perry, John. *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*. Hackett Publishing. 1978. ISBN 978-0915144532

Plato. *Symposium*. Nehamas and Woodruff (Translators). Hackett Publishing. 1989. ISBN 08-7220-076-0

Plato. *Phaedo*. Grube (Translator) Hackett Publishing. 1977. ISBN 978-0915144181

Tolstoy, Leo. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*. Pevear and Volokhonsky (Translators) Vintage. Reprint Edition. 2012. ISBN 978-0307951335

Other readings will be made available through the course website.

Evaluation

There will be two in class tests worth 25% each and a Registrar scheduled final exam worth 25%. In addition there will be 2 short writing assignments of approximately 600 words of length collectively worth 25%. Due dates for the writing assignments will depend on the tutorial students are registered in.

Due dates

Tutorial 01 and 02 Assignment 1	Thursday January 23 rd
Tutorial 03 and 04 Assignment 1	Thursday January 30 th
In-class Test 1	Tuesday February 11 th
Tutorial 01 and 02 Assignment 2	Thursday March 6 th
Tutorial 03 and 04 Assignment 2	Thursday March 13 th
In-class Test 2	Thursday March 27 th
Final Exam	TBA

Grading Method/Scale

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. Each assignment and test question will be graded on both content *and* quality of presentation, which includes spelling and grammar.

On each assignment or test 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. A/B are possible. In computing your grade on a test 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 question weights given on the test.

In computing your final grade, your grade point scores on the assignments, tests, and final exam will be averaged according to the weights given above. *Ceteris paribus*, your final mark is the letter grade corresponding to this average plus a margin of 0.2 (i.e., an average of 3.8 earns an A, an average of 3.5 an A -, etc.). The A+ grade is reserved for exceptional work.

Policy on Late Assignments

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 must miss a test due to medical reasons or other reasonable grounds should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

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. 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 and Program Planning— 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. Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **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. For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: 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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR WINTER 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca

Reid Buchanan buchanan@ucalgary.ca

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) migotti@ucalgary.ca

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (msnell@ucalgary.ca)