



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 259 Lec 02 – Sex, Love, and Death

Winter Term 2017

### Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 2:00-2:50 in SA 104

**Instructor:** Mark Migotti  
**Office:** SS1234  
**Office Phone:** 403 220 5534  
**Email:** [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 12:30-1:30

**Teaching Assistant:** Andrew Schoepfer  
**Office:** SS 1242  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-5564  
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**Office Hours:** Tue, Fri 12:00-1:00

### Course Description

Philosophical explorations of sex, love and death focusing on questions of definition, interpretation, and significance.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- Broad knowledge of diverse approaches to the philosophy of sex, love, and death.
- Detailed knowledge of Plato's *Symposium*.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources.
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions.
- Ability to connect theoretical perspectives on sex love, and death to various practical social issues and phenomena: e.g., polygamy, gender identity, sexual behaviour, euthanasia etc.

### Required Texts

Available at Shelf Life Books, 1304 4<sup>th</sup> St. SW.

Plato: *Symposium*, trans. Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff, Hackett, 1989

Plato: *The Apology and Related Dialogues*, ed. Andrew Bailey, Broadview Press, 2016

*Desire, Love, and Identity*, ed. Gary Foster, Oxford University Press, 2015

*Philosophy and Death*, ed. Samantha Brennan and Robert Stainton, Broadview Press, 2010

### Course Assessment

5% quiz on Plato's *Euthyphro* and Greta Christina "Are We Having Sex Now or What?":  
Week of January 23, in tutorial.

5% quiz on Plato's *Symposium*  
Week of January 30 in tutorial.

5% FOOD FOR THOUGHT paper due according to position of family name in the alphabet:  
A-D: due Friday, February 10  
E-L: due Monday, February 13  
M-R: due Wednesday, February 15  
S-Z: due Friday, February 17

20% In class test on the *Symposium*, Friday, March 10.

15% Discussion paper on an article chosen from either *Desire, Love, and Identity*, or *Philosophy and Death*, due date depends on the article chosen.

30% Registrar-scheduled final examination.

20% tutorial participation (to be assessed on contributions to discussion) and tutorial presentation.

In cases of a significant, steadily rising trajectory, later work will be weighted more heavily than earlier work.

To calculate your grade as you go along, I will be using the following correspondences:

A+ 90-100	B+ 75-79	C+ 60-64	D+ 45-49
A 85-89	B 70-74	C 55-59	D 40-44
A- 80-84	B- 65-69	C- 50-54	F 0-39

Late paper and take-home policy: In general, a medical reason is required if you are to turn in work late without penalty. I will, though, entitle each student to two days of grace period to be used at your discretion throughout the semester. That way you do not need to request permission for those days. Late work beyond the two days will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day.

## Syllabus

Wk 1: Introductory

Wk 2: DEFINITION I: Greta Christina, "Are We Having Sex Now or What?"; and Plato, *Euthyphro*

Wks 3 and 4: INTERPRETATION I: *Symposium*

Wk 5 DEFINITION II: Greta Christina, "Are We Having Sex Now or What?"; Plato, *Euthyphro*; supplementary material.

Wk. 6: SIGNIFICANCE I: Alice Munro, "The Progress of Love" (electronic version on D2L site).

Wks 7-8 INTERPRETATION II: *Symposium* (**In class test, Friday, March 10**)

Wks 9 and 10: SIGNIFICANCE II: *Apology of Socrates*, Epicurus, Bernard Williams.

Wks 11-12: Open, readings and topics TBA.

Wk 13: INTERPRETATION III: *Symposium*

## IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

### 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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

### **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca) . Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> 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 Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl ([jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)), Reid Buchanan ([buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)), Megan Delehanty ([mdelehan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mdelehan@ucalgary.ca)).

### **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 Department Manager, Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15- minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc) .

### **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 or teaching assistant.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging 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

### **Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca) , [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca) .
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>