



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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

Fall Term 2012

Course Outline

Lectures: TR 14:00 - 15:15 in A 142

Instructor:	Dr. Nicole Wyatt	TA:	Jeremy Wark
Office:	Social Sciences 1214	Office:	Social Sciences 1211
Phone:	403-220-3166	Phone:	403-210-3884
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Office Hours:	Mondays 13:00-14:30 and by appointment.	Office Hours:	TBA

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 course website.

Required Texts

Plato. *Symposium*, Hackett Publishing Company. 1989 ISBN 978-0872200760

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

Martinich, A.P. *Philosophical Writing: an introduction*. Wiley-Blackwell. 2005. ISBN 978-1405131674

Other readings will be made available through the course website.

Evaluation

There will be 7 short writing assignments of approximately 300 words in length and one long writing assignment of approximately 1000 words in length. Assignments should be submitted as hard copies either in class or to the drop box in the Philosophy department (12th Floor Social Sciences). The drop box is cleared at 4pm each day.

Assignment Due Dates

Short Writing Assignment 1	Thursday September 27 th
Short Writing Assignment 2	Thursday October 4 th
Short Writing Assignment 3	Thursday October 18 th
Short Writing Assignment 4	Thursday October 25 th
Short Writing Assignment 5	Thursday November 1 st
Short Writing Assignment 6	Thursday November 15 th
Short Writing Assignment 7	Thursday November 29 th
Long Writing Assignment	Monday December 10 th

THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRAR SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM.

Grading

- Each short writing assignment will be worth 10%.
- The long writing assignment will be worth 30%.
- Each assignment will be graded on both content *and* quality of presentation, which includes spelling and grammar.

On each assignment 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 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.). The A+ grade is reserved for exceptional work.

Late policy

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 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 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.

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 FALL 2012:

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