



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 259 Lec 02 – “Sex, Love and Death”  
Fall Term 2015**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Monday, 6:30pm-9:15pm in KNB 126

**Instructor:** Philip Puszczalowski

**Office:** SS 1205

**Email:** [pjpuszcz@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pjpuszcz@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00pm-2:00pm

**Teaching Assistant:** Robert Armstrong

**Office:** SS 1227

**Email:** [armstrjr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:armstrjr@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3:00pm-4:00pm

***Course Description***

This course aims to examine love, sex, and death from a philosophical perspective. By reflecting on various questions such as: “What is the nature of love?”, “Is death bad?”, and “What counts as ‘sex’?”, students will be introduced to the difficulties inherent in these topics.

***Required Texts***

*Symposium*

Nehamas, Alexander and Woodruff, Paul (trans.), Hackett Publishing, 1989.

*The Philosophy of Sex (6th Edition)*

Power, Nicholas, Halwani, Raja, and Soble, Alan (eds.), Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.

*Philosophy and Death*

Brennan, Samantha and Stainton, Robert J. (eds.), Broadview Press, 2010.

Additional materials will be indicated via D2L for this class.

Available at: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/login.asp>

***Evaluation***

Participation: 5%

Mini-Essay #1: 15% **Wednesday, October 14th**

Midterm: 40% **Monday, November 9th**

Mini-Essay #2: 15% **Monday, November 16th**

Final Exam: 10% **Monday, December 7th**

Mini-Essay #3: 15% **Tuesday, December 8th**

With the exception of the credit earned for participation, the entire mark will involve being graded on written work. Naturally, standards for essays prepared outside class will be much higher than those for in-class exams. There is NO registrar scheduled final exam.

The final grade will be based on the credit accumulated from the various assignments, so it is mathematically possible to pass the course without turning in any particular assignment. But this strategy is not recommended.

### *Participation:*

I want you to be engaged with the material and the class, so I'm rewarding you for giving me evidence that you are. This evidence can be provided through participating in the weekly tutorials. Attending tutorials are an important part of the course as they allow you to get a firmer grasp on the material discussed in lecture, and provide you with an opportunity to ask and discuss questions that the lecture might not address. Merely attending the tutorials will not count as evidence. You must participate in tutorial in order to receive marks.

### *Mini-Essays:*

There will be **3** mini-essays due throughout the course. The first will deal with love, the second with sex, and the third with death. You are to philosophically examine a problem or question of your own choosing. **Topics will not be provided.** It is **HIGHLY** recommended that you get your topic approved by either myself or the TA. Doing so will allow us to ensure that you are on the right track, and will help you to avoid common errors.

Each mini-essay is to be 3 pages in length. Please use standard essay format – i.e. 12-point font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, etc.

### *Midterm:*

The midterm will test you on the sections covering Love and Sex, and will be written in class.

### *Final Exam:*

The final exam will be written in class and will test you on the section covering Death.

Further instructions will be included when those topics are distributed.

### *D2L and Email:*

Class information will be posted on D2L. You'll be sent class announcements through email and the email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar. So please check that account on a regular basis.

### *Grading Method*

All evaluated material will be graded on a scale from A+ to F. To weight assignments and calculate the final grade, these letter grades will be converted into the following scale:

95-100% = A+	85-94% = A	81-84% = A-
78-80% = B+	75-77% = B	71-74% = B-
68-70% = C+	65-67% = C	61-64% = C-
58-60% = D+	50-57% = D	0-49% = F

### *Policy on Late Assignments*

The midterm and final exam are to be submitted in class and will not be accepted late. Late mini-essays are accepted, with a penalty of one full grade per 24-hour period late. So, an A-paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours after it was due would receive a C-. Please submit late papers in the Philosophy Department drop box – before 4pm – located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building.

### **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 the University of Calgary's online learning management system. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

### **Student Advising and Information Resources**

- **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 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 or teaching assistant.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building  
and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### **PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2015:**

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