



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 259 Lec 01
Sex, Love and Death
Winter Term 2021

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. David Boutland
Office: N/A
Office hours (via Zoom): M 10:00-11:30am, or by appointment
Phone: N/A
E-mail: cdmboutl@ucalgary.ca

TA:
Office:
Office Hours:
Phone:
E-mail:

Lectures: MWF 9-9:50 am via Zoom

Lectures will be held synchronously during the scheduled time and a recording of each lecture will be made available through D2L.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course description:

The course examines philosophical views surrounding love, sex, and death, and how these concepts influence our lives. We will begin the course by discussing the nature of erotic love and its historical development. The essential starting point when considering the nature of love is Plato's *Symposium*. This will be followed by a historical survey across a number of notable views on the nature of love, including Ovid, Augustine, Heloise and Abelard, Andreas Capellanus, John Milton, Shakespeare, G.W.F. Hegel, Arthur Schopenhauer, H.B. Stendhal, Friedrich Nietzsche, Simone de Beauvoir, Robert Nozick, Martha Nussbaum, and Robert Solomon. We will then turn our focus to issues surrounding sex and sexuality. We start by assessing the concepts of sex and gender, exploring the history of these categories and the problems to which they give rise. We will explore a number of ethical issues regarding sex and sexuality, including the permissibility of sexual acts, pornography, sexual objectification and prostitution. The authors we will look at in this section include Anne Fausto-Sterling, Greta Christina, Catherine MacKinnon, Judith Butler, Sally Haslanger, Frederick Elliston and Raja Halwani. In the final 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 ethical issues surrounding death, including the wrongness of killing, euthanasia, and suicide. The authors we will look at in this section include Plato, Epicurus, Lucretius, Michel de Montaigne, Thomas Nagel, John Perry, Bernard

Williams, James Rachels, Bonnie Steinbock, Philippa Foot, Jonathan Glover, Ronald Dworkin, Robert Nozick, John Rawls and Judith Jarvis Thomson.

Course Objectives:

- Broad knowledge of diverse philosophical issues, problems, traditions, and views;
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze complex sources;
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions;
- Ability to engage in constructive, respectful, oral and written argumentation.

Texts:

- 1) Readings will be made available through Library e-journals and will be posted on D2L (respectful of copyright).

Course Assessment:

There are two short papers, a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm and final are not timed, students will be given 72 hours to write each exam. The papers will be on assigned topics from the readings. 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>. There will NOT be a Registrar-scheduled final exam. There is no grade for participation, although students who regularly participate in tutorial will be eligible for a 1% bonus.

<i>Weight</i>	<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due dates</i>
25%	Paper 1	February 12 th
25%	Midterm	March 5 th - 8 th
25%	Paper 2	March 31 st
25%	Take-home Final	April 14 th - 17 th

Assignments are to be submitted on D2L. 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. A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a pass in the course as a whole.

Papers

Paper topics will be given well in advance of the due date. Papers are to be approximately 1000 words. Your essay must be grammatically correct, with correct punctuation and spelling. Publication information must be provided for any source you use, in any commonly used format you prefer.

Midterm

A midterm exam will be made available at the end of the corresponding lecture. Students will be given 72 hours to complete the exam and submit it on D2L. The exam will focus on the material assigned in the first half of the course.

Final Exam

The final will be made available on the last day of class, Wednesday, April 14th. A final copy of the final must be submitted by 4pm on Saturday, April 17th. Extensions will be given under special circumstances only.

Tutorial

(Yet to be determined -)

Letter grades reflect the following standards, as outlined in the UCalgary Academic 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

Important Dates:

Start of Classes: January 11th

End of Add/Drop Period: January 21st

Reading Break: February 14th-20th

Recognized Holidays: April 2nd & April 5th

Last day to Withdraw: April 15th

End of Classes: April 15th

Final Exam Period: April 19th-April 29th

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable,

instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).