

## **Phil 233: Philosophy of Sex, Love and Friendship**

**Instructor:** Dr Gary Foster

**Meeting times:** Mon & Wed, 1:00-2:20

**Room:** BA 208

**Office:** SO13

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**Office Hours :** Mon, 2 :30-3 :30 and Wed, 11 :00-12 :00

**Text : PP233A Coursepack**

### **Course Requirements:**

Mid-term - February 13th (in class) 30%

Essay - (Due either February 25th or March 25th depending on the topic you choose)  
30%

Final Exam – TBA 40%

### **Course Schedule:**

#### **Week 1: Sexual Desire I**

Alan Goldman, "Plain Sex" in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol.6, No.3 (Spring, 1977), pp.267-287.

#### **Week 2: Sexual Desire II**

Readings: Jean-Paul Sartre, "Sexual Desire", from *Being and Nothingness*, pp.382-399.  
Robert C. Solomon, "Sexual Paradigms", from *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol.1, no.11 (June 13, 1974), pp.336-345.

#### **Week 3: Sexual Perversion I**

Thomas Nagel, "Sexual Perversion", in ed. Robert M. Stewart, *Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love*, pp.105-112.

Sara Ruddick, "Better Sex," in Baker and Elliston, pp. 280-299.

#### **Week 4: Sexual Perversion II**

Igor Primoratz, "Sexual Perversion," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 34.2 (April, 1997): 245-258.

Alan Soble, "Masturbation, Again, in ed. Alan Soble, *Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings*, pp.75-89 and p.97.

#### **Week 5: Sex and Love**

Readings: Peter A. Bertocci, "The Human Venture in Sex, Love and Marriage" in Trevas, Zucker and Borchert, 65-71.

Russell Vannoy, "Sex With Love vs. Sex Without Love" in Trevas, Zucker and Borchert, 72-85.

Raja Halwani, "What is Marriage?" from *Philosophy of Love, Sex and Marriage: An Introduction*. (New York: Routledge, 2010), 259-263.

#### **Week 6: Mid-term**

#### **Week 7: Cybersex and Cyberlove**

Readings: "Is Cybersex Sex?" Louise Collins, in Alan Soble, *Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings*, pp.117-131

Aharon Ben-Ze'ev, "Cyberlove" from *Love Online: Emotions on the Internet* (Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press, 2004), 160-174 and 188-192.

### **Week 8: Eros and Agape I**

Readings: Plato, from Symposium: 324-355

Anders Nygren, "The Content of Agape" and "The Content of Eros," from Agape and Eros, 75-81 and 175-181.

### **Week 9: Eros and Agape II**

Irving Singer, "Appraisal and Bestowal," from The Nature of Love 1: Plato to Luther (2nd edition), 3-22.

Harry G. Frankfurt, "Duty and Love," in Philosophical Explorations (January 1998), 1 (1), pg. 4-9.

### **Week 10: Romantic Love I**

Readings: Robert C. Solomon, "Romantic Love" and "The Identity Theory of Love," from About Love: Reinventing Romance for Our Times, 42-48 and 194-199.

Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Look", from Being and Nothingness, 252-260.

### **Week 11: Romantic Love II**

Readings: Jean-Paul Sartre, "First Attitude Toward Others: Love, Language, Masochism" from Being and Nothingness, 361-379.

Simone de Beauvoir, "Myth and Reality", from The Second Sex, 253-263.

### **Week 12: Friendship**

Readings: Aristotle, on 'Friendship' from his Nicomachean Ethics, pp.503-515.

James Conlon, "Why Lovers Can't Be Friends," in Stewart, pp.295-299.

### **The Academic Date section of the Calendar (Printed and Web Site Versions)**

clearly states the examination date period for each semester. Students must note that they are required to reserve this time in their personal calendars for the examinations. The examination period for winter term, 2013 period is April 11-30. Students who are considering registering to write MCAT, LSAT or GMAT or a similar examination, should select a time for those examinations that occurs outside the University examination period. For additional information that describes the special circumstances for examination deferment, consult the University calendar.

### **Student Awareness of the Accessible Learning Centre:**

Students with disabilities or special needs, are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Centre for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

### **Academic and Research Misconduct:**

Students are expected to be aware of and abide by University regulations and policies, as outlined in the current on-line Undergraduate Calendar (see <http://www.wlu.ca/calendars>). Academic misconduct is an act by a student, or by students working on a team project, which may result in a false evaluation of the student(s), or which represents a deliberate attempt to unfairly gain an academic advantage.

Laurier has an established policy with respect to cheating on assignments and examinations, which the student is required to know. Students are cautioned that in addition to a failure in the course, a student may be suspended or expelled from the

University for cheating and the offence may appear on one's transcript, in which event the offence can have serious consequences for one's business or professional career. For more information refer to the current Undergraduate calendar (University Undergraduate Regulations).

Laurier uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism. Students are to adhere to the Principles in the Use of Information Technology. These Principles and resulting actions for breaches are stated in the current Undergraduate Calendar. Students' names may be divulged in the classroom, both orally and in written form, to other members of the class. Students who are concerned about such disclosures should contact the course instructor to identify whether there are any possible alternatives to such disclosures.

**Foot Patrol:** After class call "886-FOOT" for a walk or drive home - No Walk is Too Short or Too Long.