

AUI - Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane - School of Humanities and Social Sciences

PHI 2301 03: Philosophical Thought - Fall Semester 2017

When? Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00-9:50 AM

Where? MAIN 10 - 007

Who? Dr. Stefano Bigliardi - S.Bigliardi@au.ma - Ext. 2343

Please call me by my first name (stress on the first syllable, like "Stephanie" in English). "Stef" is also OK. Make sure you know how to spell "Stefano" and "Bigliardi," though. No "ph" in Italian... And *one* f!

Office: Building 6 - Room 004

Office Hours: **Mon** 11-12 & 15-17 - **Wed** 11-12 & 15-17 - **Fri** 11-12 & 15-17

Walk-in & First-come, first-served, or by appointment

NO work talk outside of office hours - NO philosophy between 5 PM - 9 AM

Unless it's my initiative

Course Description:

That _____ Thing Called Love, 3.0

"[Love] is the leading idea of every dramatic work, be it tragic or comic, romantic or classic, Indian or European. It in no less degree constitutes the greater part of both lyric and epic poetry, especially if in these we include the host of romances which have been produced every year for centuries in every civilised country in Europe as regularly as the fruits of the earth. All these works are nothing more than many-sided, short, or long descriptions of the passion in question. Moreover, the most successful delineations of love, such, for example, as Romeo and Juliet, [...] have attained immortal fame. Rochefoucauld says that love may be compared to a ghost since it is something we talk about but have never seen, and Lichtenberg, in his essay Über die Macht der Liebe [On the Power of Love], disputes and denies its reality and naturalness – but both are in the wrong. For if it were foreign to and contradicted human nature – in other words, if it were merely an imaginary caricature, it would not have been depicted with such zeal by the poets of all ages, or accepted by mankind with an unaltered interest."

Arthur **Schopenhauer** (1788-1860) - *Metaphysics of Love* (1819), Tr. by

Mrs.

Rudolf

Dircks

<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/schopenhauer/arthur/essays/chapter10.html>

Philosophy can be defined as the quest for general truths. This course provides the students with an introduction to philosophy focusing on the contributions elaborated by eight authors who addressed the concept of *love* (a word that is contained in the very term “philosophy”). We will get familiar with different theories, philosophical styles, and vocabulary, and will learn how to debate them technically, but also to relate them to real-life issues.

Diversity of opinions will be encouraged and appreciated, but also *logical arguments* and *mutual respect*.

All the authors/topics will be discussed academically. Please note that some of them may *drag you out of your comfort zone*.

Course requirements

1. Four tests (or “quizzes” or “exams”: I use these words as synonyms! They are based on open-ended questions. And - YES, my quizzes include questions for extra points).

Please note that in good English (and French) “quiz” is written with one “z.” (This is one of the lost secrets of AUI).

2. First NON MANDATORY (but very useful and hence recommendable!) essay/exercise. **At the end of the course you can use the grade you earn for this essay to replace the grade of one of the four tests** (all tests MUST be taken, though).
3. Final essay.

Course Evaluation: Test **ONE**: 15% Test **TWO**: 15% Test **THREE**: 20% Test **FOUR**: 20%

FINAL essay: 20%

PUNCTUALITY grade: 10%

What is this? Besides normal AUI attendance rules concerning *absence* you also get a *punctuality* grade. I will subtract 5 points from 100 for each “tardiness” in your record

(you cannot enter after 9:10 though). Tardiness = after the teacher has taken attendance (I will regularly start at 9:00 according to the AUI computer's clock). This grade will be calculated as 10% of your final one.

Attendance policy concerning *absence*: According to AUI rules.

Please note that THE TEACHER DOES NOT EXAMINE AND EVALUATE ANY CERTIFICATE WHATSOEVER. "JUSTIFIED/EXCUSED ABSENCES" ARE NOT JUSTIFIED/EXCUSED BY ME BUT BY THE S. A. OFFICE THAT NOTIFIES ME VIA E-MAIL. PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH ME WITH MEDICAL PAPERS ETC. and: "Justified/excused" does NOT mean "apologized for."

Intended Learning Outcomes

Through completing this course the students will:

1. Have a chronological overview of the development of Western philosophy from Socrates (470 - 399 BC) to 20th century French existentialism/Anglo-Saxon analytical philosophy. *The course will touch upon more authors than those specifically discussed.*
2. Have an overview of the development of the specific debate over the concept of love.
3. Be familiar with different philosophical texts (each author will be studied and discussed based on selected original texts/sources).
4. Master a specific philosophical vocabulary.
5. Be able to critically engage with the authors and theories treated in class, by assessing them in comparative fashion as well as by applying them to ongoing, real-life issues. Participation in the form of discussion in class will be encouraged and expected.

TENTATIVE QUIZ CALENDAR

The following is based on course/AUI official calendar info as of Aug. 27 2017.

Changes are possible (and very likely) BUT they will be announced in advance (no pop-up quizzes).

ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ALLOWED ABSENCES A QUIZ CAN ONLY BE TAKEN ON A DIFFERENT DAY THAN THE SCHEDULED ONE IF YOU ARE ABSENT WITH A JUSTIFICATION (see above). OTHERWISE YOU WILL SIMPLY GET A 0.

Quiz one: September 29

Quiz two: October 23

Quiz three: November 17

Quiz four: December 20

General rule: The course includes the discussion of 8 authors. We will have a quiz as soon as we have covered two authors. So the first quiz will be about Plato and Lucretius, the second about Dante and Descartes, etc. **IMPORTANT:** besides following and taking notes in class, do NOT postpone studying until the last day... Philosophical theories and vocabulary need time to be absorbed.

Authors and works covered:

1. **Plato** (429?-347 BCE)
The Republic: The myth of the cave
Symposium: Aristophanes' speech & Socrates' (i.e. Diotima's) speech
2. **Lucretius** (ca. 94 -50 BCE) *De rerum natura* - fourth book (excerpts)
3. **Dante Alighieri** (1265-1321) *La Divina Commedia* - *Inferno*, canto V, vv. 73-142 (Paolo and Francesca)

4. **René Descartes** (1596-1650) Letter to Pierre Chanut, February 1st, 1647
5. **Arthur Schopenhauer** (1788-1860) *Metaphysics of Love* (1819)
6. **Richard Wagner** (1813-1883) *The Flying Dutchman* (1843)
7. **Simone de Beauvoir** (1908-1986) "The Woman in Love" (Chapter 12 of *The Second Sex*, 1949)
8. **Robert Nozick** (1938-2002) - "Love's Bond" (*The Examined Life*, 1988; pp. 68-86)

Materials (PPTs, readings etc.) will be regularly uploaded (Jenzabar) and you will be notified via e-mail.

Detailed information concerning course policy, PLAGIARISM, requirements, expectations, and outcome is also provided in the student acknowledgement, to be signed and handed in.

Read the University's Academic Policies and Procedures in the AUI 2015-2017 Catalog. You will find it in the university policy on Academic Integrity on in the Catalogue on pages 93-94 and in the Student Handbook pages 88-89 as well as on the AUI Website http://www.aui.ma/catalog%202015-2017_Links%20clickable.pdf

Cheating and plagiarism is defined and addressed in several lectures, courses throughout AUI. There is NO excuse for not knowing the policy. Alleged lack of knowledge or awareness will not serve as an excuse.

"Recycling" your own work constitutes plagiarism. Self-plagiarism is NOT tolerated.

Accidental plagiarism and intentional plagiarism are BOTH violations. We will use www.turnitin.com to help you uphold academic honesty and help YOU prevent integrity breach. Turnitin.com is a text-matching tool that checks your document for originality. Faculty knows about the "tricks." Don't attempt to "fool" Turnitin.

Syllabus watermark: Eros. Attic red-figure bobbin, c. 470 BC–450 BCE. Louvre.
Yes, he's naked. We'll learn why.