

**Philosophy of Love and Sex
Fall 2018
Syllabus**

**Phil 170/ CRN 14943
Credits: 04
Location: 104 Condon
MTWR 09:00-09:50 AM**

**Instructor: Jane Nam
dnam@uoregon.edu
Office: 158B Susan Campbell Hall
Office Hours: ~~W 10 AM-12 PM~~**

Course Description:

Love and sex are so central to human life that many would argue that our intimate relationships are the key to self-esteem, fulfillment, even happiness itself; in fact, our intimate relationships are probably more important to our sense of well-being than our careers. Yet we spend remarkably little time *thinking* about love and sex, even as we spend years preparing ourselves for the world of work. In this course you will be asked to reflect on the most intimate sphere of human existence. We will draw on historical, sociological, religious, feminist and philosophical work to shed critical light on a variety of questions, including: What is love exactly? Why do we continually associate love and sex with happiness and pleasure when they often make us so utterly miserable? Is there, or should there be, an ethics of love and sex? What happens to sex when it is associated with “scoring” (the conquest model of sex)? How are our understandings of masculinity and femininity tied in with what we believe about love and sex? What does it mean to have a sexuality or to “be” a certain sexuality? When we are in love do we or should we merge with our beloved, or maintain our separate identity and existence? Why do we seem to need love so deeply that not having it may seem to threaten our very existence?

You should come away from this class with a more considered understanding of your own beliefs and values about love and sex, and with habits of thinking that are helpful in real life situations in which either love, or sex, or both, become difficult, delightful, overwhelming, painful, or ethically challenging.

Our readings for the course are drawn from a variety of sources: the commonly recognized texts/thinkers of the western philosophical tradition, Christian thinkers, contemporary empirical work, queer theorists and feminist theorists. **If you feel that you cannot benefit by engaging or learn from each of these perspectives, whether or not you agree with them, this is probably not the class for you.** We address issues of sexism and sexuality along with questions about the meaning of our erotic existence and the nature of love.

*borrowed from Dr. Bonnie Mann’s original Love and Sex course

Grading:

Attendance.....	10%
Participation.....	5%
Presentations.....	5%
Reading Checks/ Quizzes.....	10%
Take Home Exams (15% x 2).....	30%
Paper 1.....	20%
Paper 2 (Final)	20%

Attendance (10%):

All attendance is mandatory unless excused (must be cleared with me in advance, with official documentation). You're allowed 2 "free" absences. Any absences after will lead to a 3% deduction (for each absence) from your final grade. Please keep in mind there is a strong correlation between attendance and class performance. Arriving late or leaving early will also affect your attendance (i.e. arriving late repeatedly may result in an 'absence' for the day).

*Half of the attendance grade is based on your physical presence in the classroom, and the other half is based on you having your texts with you in class.

Participation (5%):

Participation means you are doing more than just being physically present with your texts out. In order to receive full points, you must be actively engaged with both lecture and discussion. Are you paying attention? Are you contributing to discussion?

Course Assignments (85%):

*Paper guidelines: Time New Roman Font, size 12, 1-inch margins, & **single-spaced**.

- Presentations (5%)
- Reading Checks/ Quizzes (10%): Randomly held throughout the term with the purpose of keeping you accountable for the reading assignments.
- Take Home Exams (15% x 2)
- Papers (20% x 2): 2.5- 3 pages single-spaced

Please keep in mind that all assignments are intended to demonstrate your knowledge of class material and concepts. With that, please focus mainly on course texts and refrain from using outside sources

Late Assignments:

If you find yourself unable to meet a paper deadline, please ask for an extension at least 12 hours in advance. Otherwise, 4% will be deducted off of your paper grade each day that it is late.

Undergraduate Grading Rubric for the Philosophy Department:

The following rubric reflects the general standards of the Philosophy Department at the University of Oregon

A= excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.

B= good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.

C= OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.

D= poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.

F= failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

Please note: what counts as "excellent" or "OK," for example, depends in part upon the nature and level of the class in question.

Required Texts:

All readings will be posted onto Canvas, and ***all readings must be brought to class*** (in printed form).

Academic Honesty:

Using the ideas of another person—be it a professional writer, speaker, or a classmate or friend—without proper acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism. Even when it is unintended, plagiarism carries significant disciplinary action. Do not take this issue lightly. You are responsible for reading, understanding, and adhering to the guidelines for acknowledging the work of others as outlined on the UO website: <http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism>. Ignorance of the guidelines is not an acceptable excuse for student misconduct.

For further assistance, refer to: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

*Plagiarism will result in failure of the course

Sexual Harassment

Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender-based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment may seek resources and help at safe.uoregon.edu. To get help by phone, a student can also call either the UO's 24-hour hotline at 541-346-7244 [SAFE], or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator at 541-346-8136. From the SAFE website, students may also connect to Callisto, a confidential, third-party reporting site that is not a part of the university.

Students experiencing any other form of prohibited discrimination or harassment can find information at respect.uoregon.edu or aaeo.uoregon.edu or contact the non-confidential AAEO office at 541-346-3123 or the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216 for help. As UO policy has different reporting requirements based on the nature of the reported harassment or discrimination, additional information about reporting requirements for discrimination or harassment unrelated to sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment is available at [Discrimination & Harassment](#).

Accessibility:

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu

PHIL 170/ LOVE & SEX

Course Calendar:

*Homework is due by the date assigned

*Must bring texts to every class

Week 1/ Modern Love	
Mon, 09/24	Hello
Tues, 09/25	Aziz Ansari, "Everything You Think You Know About Love is Wrong" http://time.com/aziz-ansari-modern-romance/ and/ or Phoebe Lett, "You Up? College in the Age of Tinder" https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/14/opinion/you-up-college-in-the-age-of-tinder.html
Wed, 09/26	Due: Presentations: What is love? (~1 page single-spaced) *bring hardcopy to class
Thu, 09/27	Begin Plato's "Symposium" (47 pages)
*Note: 09/29 Last day to drop classes w/o "W"; 09/30 Last day to add classes	
Week 2/ Love and Sex in the History of Philosophy	
Mon, 10/01	Plato, "Symposium"
Tues, 10/02	"
Wed, 10/03	"
Thu, 10/04	In class: how to write philosophy papers
Week 3	
Mon, 10/08	Augustine, "Confessions" (6 pages)
Tue, 10/09	Heloise and Abelard, "Letters" (15 pages)
Wed, 10/10	Kant, "On the Distinction of the Beautiful and Sublime" (20 pages)
Thu, 10/11	"
Sunday by noon, 10/14, Due: Take Home Exam (submit to Canvas)	
Week 4/ Responding to Love and Sex in the History of Philosophy	
Mon, 10/15	Rousseau, selections from "Sophie," in <i>Emile</i> (19 pages)
Tue, 10/16	"
Wed, 10/17	Wollstonecraft, "The Prevailing Opinion" (first 14 pages)
Thu, 10/18	In class: When Harry Met Sally- I'll have what she's having https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INEX0fbGePg
Week 5/ Put a Ring on it	
Mon, 10/22	Kollantai, "Make Way for Winged Eros" (16 pages)
Tue, 10/23	"
Wed, 10/24	Silvia Federici, "Why Sexuality is Work" from <i>Revolution at Zero Point</i> (1975) (5 pages)
Thu, 10/25	Beauvoir, "The Woman in Love" from <i>The Second Sex</i> (25 pages) In class: The Ugly Truth- Phone scene https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqo6JwHrP7E
HALFWAY DONE! ☺	

Week 6/ The Independent Woman	
Mon, 10/29	In class: New trends emerge in Korea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_m5rcPbW4s China's 'Leftover Women' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irfd74z52Cw
Tue, 10/30	Beauvoir, "Independent Woman" from <i>The Second Sex</i> (30 pages)
Wed, 10/31	"
Thu, 11/01	Traister, <i>All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef2d7OBGNR8&feature=youtu.be
Sunday by noon, 11/04, Due: Paper 1 (2.5- 3 pages single-spaced)	
Week 7/ Dating and Masculinity	
Mon, 11/05	Bordo, "Gentleman or Beast" (19 pages)
Tue, 11/06	"
Wed, 11/07	Katz, excerpts from "The Macho Paradox" (21 pages): "It Takes a Village to Rape a Woman" In class: <i>Tough Guise</i> (film)
Thu, 11/08	"
*Note: 11/11 Last day to withdraw from classes	
Week 8/ Dating and Femininity	
Mon, 11/12	Phillips, "What's a Young Woman (Not) to Think" pp. 33-52 (19 pages) In class: <i>Flirting with Danger</i> (film)
Tue, 11/13	"
Wed, 11/14	Phillips, "What's a Young Woman (Not) to Think" pp. 53-78 (25 pages)
Thu, 11/15	"
Sunday by noon, 11/18, Due: Take Home Exam (submit to Canvas)	
Week 9/ Sexuality	
Mon, 11/19	Burke, "Sexuality as Becoming" (24 pages)
Tue, 11/20	"
Wed, 11/21	Eribon, "To Tell or Not to Tell" (9 pages)
Thu, 11/22	No class
*Note: 11/22-23 Thanksgiving Vacation	
Week 10	
Mon, 11/26	Diamond, "Will the Real Lesbian Please Stand Up" (16 pages)
Tue, 11/27	"
Wed, 11/28	"
Thu, 11/29	Class reflections
*Note: 11/30 Last day of classes	
Week 11/ Finals	
Wednesday by noon, 12/05, Due: Paper 2 (2.5- 3 pages single-spaced)	
*Note: Final Week 12/03- 12/07 Good Luck ☺	
*Grades due by 12/11 Tuesday noon	