Philosophy of Love & Sex Syllabus
Phil 170: crn 28483; Winter 2014,
Deady Hall 205, T/Th 10-11:50 a.m.

I) Instructor Contact Info & Office Hours: Kimberley Parzuchowski
Office location is SCH 250b, office hours are T 12:30-2:30 (subject to change). Email: chowski@uoregon.edu
Also available by appointment; speak to me before/after class, or email me to arrange meeting.

II) Course Objective: Exploring the philosophical nature and responsibility of erotic and sexual love
Sexuality and coupling relationships are deeply complex, even troubling. And yet, they are one of the main sources of wellbeing in human life. How we think about love and sex impacts our treatment of one another and our potential for enduring bonds, emotional security, material wellbeing, and meaning in life. This course will be exploring the ins and outs of coupling as it pertains to the wellbeing of individuals, couples, families, and community. Questions at issue include, “What is the point of love/sex?” “What is the meaning of love/sex?” As very intelligent animals, we can be very stupid about our own welfare and wellbeing. Philosophical reflection enables us to step apart from our habits of thought and behavior to consider and evaluate their effectiveness with respect to our goals, values and beliefs. Knowing ourselves as a species and as both socially liberated and socially constructed beings can assist us in crafting the practices and ways of thinking that will best serve our future wellbeing.

III) Required Course Texts:
Readings on BB printed out and brought to class: Printed copies REQUIRED

IV) Student Responsibility:
Students are responsible for all announcements in class and emails sent regarding changes in syllabus or other class information. Please check email regularly and be in contact with instructor regarding absences, excused or not, in order to stay informed. Assignments due on the day listed in schedule. E.g. “M: Cahn 200-245” means the reading should be completed before lecture on that Monday. There will be daily quizzes to ensure reading is completed for quality comprehension and a lively discussion. Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling the University of Oregon’s Academic Honesty Policy and will receive the consequences of any violations. Info found at: http://tep.uoregon.edu/workshops/teachertraining/learnercentered/syllabus/academicdishonesty.html

Papers & Exam (70%)
Essay 1 is worth 10%, essay 2 is 15%, & Essay 3 is 25%. Topics will be explained in lecture and papers will be submitted both electronically to SafeAssign and in class. Length is 3 pages: strictly enforced. Format for essay (also strictly enforced!) must be 12pt Times Roman font or reasonable equivalent, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins only, include, name, class, and beginning page 2, pg # AND STAPLED! Grading scale will follow rubric which will be distributed and explicated by the end of the second week of class. The exam 1 is worth 20% and may borrow material from daily quizzes.

Reflections on Sexuality & Love Relations (10%)
You will compose your thoughts on love and sex at the beginning and the end of the course. Reflections should be no less than 1p and no more than 2pgs, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1” margins, due on the last day of class.

Participation (20%)
❖ Texts in class
❖ Daily Quizzes
❖ Intellectually active engagement and participation in material & discussions
Students are expected to actively engage in the discourse of the class. Varieties of opportunities are provided for students who may or may not prefer speaking in large groups (e.g. small group work). If participation is a problem, it is expected that the student will visit with the instructor during office hours to address it. Please inform instructor of absences and note that students are responsible for all announcements made in lecture and via emails.
V) Schedule of Readings and Lecture Themes

Readings and assignments subject to change which will be announced in lecture, or via BB/email: students are responsible for keeping current.

Week 1 What is Love/Eros?
T Plato: Introduction to Philosophy, the course, and Plato’s thought; Plato: The Symposium
* Th Reflection 1 Due; Plato: The Symposium; Keltner: Love, Born to be Good

Week 2 Gender in History
T Kant: Of the Distinction of the Beautiful and Sublime in the Interrelations of the Two
Th Sexes Wolstonecraft: The Rights of Men, The Rights of Women

Week 3 Gender Challenges
* T Paper 1 Due; Rogers: What Causes Sex Differences; Freud: The Oedipus Complex, The Interpretation of Dreams;
Th Irigaray: The Sex which is Not One’s Own; Butler: Doing Justice to Someone, Undoing Gender

Week 4 Sexuality, Power & Difference
T: Brittan: Masculinities, Masculinity and Power; Beauvoir: Introduction, The Second Sex
Th Beauvoir: The Woman in Love, The Second Sex; Eribon Insult, Gaze Interpellation

Week 5 Our Failures & Responsibilities
T Phillips: Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Flirting with Danger; Sanday: Hooking Up at the Trump, A Woman Scorned
Th Haidt: Reciprocity with a Vengeance, Happiness Hypothesis

Week 6 Reciprocity & Romance
* T Paper 2 Due; Keltner: “Compassion,” Born to be Good
Th Haidt: Love & Attachments, Happiness Hypothesis; Film Clips Romeo & Juliet

Week 7 Passion & Relationships
T Aquinas: The Purpose of Sex; Vatican: Declaration; Antioch: Sexual Offense Policy; Soble; Kittay Rsp
Th Scheler: of Love & Hate, The Nature of Sympathy; Solomon: The Self in Love, About Love

Week 8 Love & Light
T; Edith Stein: Empathy as the Understanding of Spiritual Persons; Song of Solomon, the Hebrew Bible/OT
Th Nussbaum: Love’s Knowledge, Love’s Knowledge; Proust & Beattie narratives

Week 9 Love as Friendship
T Aristotle: Friendship & Community, Friendship & the Self, The Nicomachean Ethics
* Th Paper 3 Due; Film Clips: Austen: Pride & Prejudice (Eldridge analysis) Take home exam handed out to be returned on Thursday of Week 10.

Week 10 Relating to Happiness...Joy?
T Haidt: Happiness Comes from Between, Happiness Hypothesis; Nussbaum: Constructing Love, Desire & Care
* Th Reflection 2 Due; Hooks: Clarity, All About Love; Summation: Recall the Symposium