

Introduction to Ethics: Love and Sex

PHILOSOPHY 1308
FALL 2015 BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Rettler,

Time and Location: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45 pm, Morrison 106

Contact: Lindsay_Rettler@baylor.edu

Office Hours: Tues 2:00-4:00 pm, Morrison 220

Course Website:

<http://lindsayrettler.weebly.com/phil-1308-love-and-sex-fall-2015-baylor.html>

Course Description and Goals

Love and sex are things that we think about a lot, but that we don't often subject to careful reflection. We love our friends, our romantic partners, our family, our pets, and ice cream. What, if anything, do these forms of love have in common? Is love just a feeling, or is it something else, like a commitment? Do we have control over who we love and how we love? Is love always good? What is sex? Who should you have sex with? Is sex always good? What's the connection between sex and love? How do love and sex affect men and women differently?

These are the kind of questions we'll be trying to answer in this course. We'll read what some of the ancients—Plato and Aristotle—have to say about love; and we'll look at the work of a variety of contemporary philosophers. The goals of course are to help you gain deeper insight into the complexity of human relationships, to identify and critique various undefended assumptions concerning love and sex, to learn to express your own views clearly, and moreover, to support your views with good arguments.

Required Texts

- *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis (any edition is acceptable)
- Additional articles supplied by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (10%): The class is primarily based around discussion of the arguments presented in our readings. You are expected to come to class regularly and participate in class discussion and at least one debate. The reading can be difficult and dense and you will almost certainly not get what you need out of it by simply reading them by yourself. You should take notes on what you read, write down any question you have, and be prepared to talk about the readings in class. You are allowed to miss two class sessions for any reason whatsoever, at which point I will deduct points from your attendance and participation grade for future absences. Please talk to me *ahead of time* if you know you will be absent.

Course Requirements, continued...

Short Responses, 1-2 paragraphs (10%): These short written responses will be assigned randomly throughout the semester, and graded as pass/fail. I may give you a short question at the beginning of class to test your knowledge of the readings, or at the end of class to gauge your response to class discussion. Sometimes I'll give you the assignment ahead of time.

2 Critical Papers, 1 page, 15% each (30% total): In these papers you'll articulate the argument of a particular author and then critically engage with that argument. You should spend approximately half of the paper reconstructing the author's argument and the other half developing your critique. One paper must be written on the topic of love, and is due at the latest by week 6; and the other must be on the topic of sex, and is due at the latest by week 11. Please see the schedule for exact dates.

Exam (25%): The exam is a series of short essay questions answered in class the week before Thanksgiving. I will provide you a list of potential questions ahead of time, and choose at random from among those questions on the day of the exam.

Final Paper Outline, 1-2 pages (5%): This is a full outline of your final paper (more instructions below). In it you should state the thesis for which you will be arguing, as well as descriptions of the arguments you plan to give. Each student must schedule an appointment to meet with me to discuss and receive feedback on their outlines in person during week 12.

Final Paper, 5-7 pages (20%): In this paper you will argue for your preferred position on one of our topics. You need to clearly present the arguments in favor of your view, show that you understand how people might object to it, and explain how you can respond to their objections. Make sure to engage and reference the authors and arguments we've read in class, but do your best to go beyond them in some significant way. Make your *own* contribution.

Administrative Issues

Classroom Conduct: We are discussing topics in this class that are difficult, sensitive, and controversial. They can also be extremely personal. You have no idea how the people in the room may be personally connected to what we discuss. Because of this we all need to be very careful how we conduct ourselves. Respect one another! Pay attention when people are speaking, listen carefully before jumping in, and speak in a respectful tone. You will almost certainly disagree with people. In this course, we will explore our disagreement *together* in a structured, collaborative atmosphere. Keep this in mind.

As for technology, one way to disrespect people is to distract them from what's important. So, put your phones on silent or vibrate—texting or answering your phone in class is not acceptable. If you want to take notes on a laptop, you must approve it with me at the beginning of the semester.

Administrative Issues continued...

Late Assignments: All papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized one partial grade per day starting with the due date. I understand that emergencies happen, so come talk to me if you encounter a problem that prevents you from turning in your papers on time. If, however, you do not bother to make arrangements with me within 24-hours of the due date there is no way to avoid the penalty. *Note:* you must turn in all assignments to pass the course.

Office Hours: I am always available during office hours to discuss any questions about the course or philosophy in general, or anything else of importance to you, including personal issues. I'm also a good resource for working through paper ideas, including questions about how to get started. You will benefit the most if you come talk to me early on about anything confusing, and if you discuss written work at least several days *before* it's due. I'm also happy to answer questions via email. If my scheduled office hours don't work for you, then please contact me to schedule a different time.

Academic Integrity: I will enforce the university's policy on academic integrity and report all academic misconduct. You are responsible for making yourself aware of the relevant policies and procedures of Baylor's Honor Code. Please note that plagiarism is one of the most serious violations of academic integrity and consists in presenting the work or ideas of another as your own. If you use someone else's literal words, even if it's only a few, you need to put them in quotation marks and explicitly cite the source. You must *also* explicitly cite the source even if you are paraphrasing or merely using someone else's ideas. Please refer to the Honor Code for more information.

Accommodation for Disabilities: Students that need special accommodations for disabilities, whether permanent or temporary, should inform me at the beginning of the semester. You will need to contact the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA) at 254-710-3605 or OALA@Baylor.edu for further instructions. I will work in conjunction with the OALA to adapt methods, materials, and testing to ensure that everyone can participate equally.

Course Outline

The following is an outline of topics and readings for the course, all of which I will provide. I reserve the right to change this schedule at any time, though I will notify you at least a week in advance. Please check the course website (<http://lindsayrettler.weebly.com/phil-1308-love-and-sex.html>) for the most up to date list of readings and deadlines for assignments. Please complete the readings before class on the days for which they are listed.

Introduction to Love, and Logic (week 1)

T 8/25 Syllabus, What is Flirting?

Optional: Carrie Jenkins – The Philosophy of Flirting (2006)

Optional: Daniel Nolan – The Varieties of Flirtatious Experience (2006)

Th 8/27 James Pryor: What is an Argument?; Vocabulary Describing Arguments; How to Read Philosophy; and How to Write Philosophy

What is Love? (week 2)

T 9/1 Plato – *Symposium*

Th 9/3 *Symposium* cont.

Optional: Martha Nussbaum – The Speech of Alcibiades (1979)

Optional: Simon Blackburn – *Lust*, chapter 3: Two Problems from Plato (2004)

Love in Friendship (weeks 3-4)

T 9/8 Aristotle – *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VIII

Optional: John Cooper – Aristotle on the Forms of Friendship (1979)

Th 9/10 Aristotle – *Nicomachean Ethics* Book IX

T 9/15 C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*, chapters 3-4: Affection, Friendship (1960)

Th 9/17 Lewis – chapters 3-4 cont.

Types of Love (weeks 5-6)

T 9/22 C.S. Lewis *The Four Loves*, chapter 5: Eros (1960)

Th 9/24 Annette Baier – Unsafe Loves (1991)

Optional: Irving Singer – The Nature of Love (1991)

Optional: Andrea Westlund – The Reunion of Marriage (2008)

T 9/29 C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*, chapter 6: Charity

David Foster Wallace – This is Water: *audio* and *transcript*

Th 10/1 Tom Crisp – Jesus and Affluence (2011)

LAST DAY TO TURN IN CRITICAL PAPER #1

Love and Sex Combined: Marriage (week 7)

T 10/6 Bryan Weaver and Fiona Woolland – Marriage and the Norm of Monogamy (2008)

Th 10/8 DEBATE!

For Marriage: Mike Martin – Love’s Constancy (1993)

John Finnis – Marriage: A Basic and Exigent Good (2008)

Against Marriage: Emma Goldman – Marriage and Love (1914)

Claudia Card – Against Marriage and Motherhood (1996)

Dan Moller – An Argument Against Marriage (2003)

What is Sex? (week 8)

T 10/13 Alan Goldman – Plain Sex (1977)

Th 10/15 William May – Four Mischievous Theories of Sex (2007)

Sexual Ethics (week 9)

T 10/20 David Benatar – Two Views of Sexual Ethics (2002)

Th 10/22 Alexander Pruss – Not Out of Lust, but in Accordance with Truth (2003)

Objectification (week 10)

T 10/27 Martha Nussbaum – Objectification (1995)

Th 10/29 Patricia Marino – The Ethics of Sexual Objectification: Autonomy and Consent (2008)

Pornography (week 11)

T 11/3 Michael Rea – What is Pornography? (2001)

Jorn Sonderholm – A Counterexample to Rea's Definition of Pornography (2008)

Th 11/5 Hans Maes – Drawing the Line: Art vs. Pornography (2011)

Christy Uidhir Mag – Why Pornography Can't be Art (2001)

LAST DAY TO TURN IN CRITICAL PAPER #2

Rape and Consent (week 12)

T 11/10 Lois Pineau – Date Rape: A Feminist Analysis (1996)

Optional: Anita Superson – Sexual Harassment and Rape (2011)

PAPER OUTLINES DUE

Th 11/12 Larry May and Robert Strikwerda – Men in Groups: Collective Responsibility for Rape (2014)

Love and Tinder (weeks 13-14)

T 11/17 Nancy Jo Sales – Tinder and the Dawn of the “Dating Apocalypse” (Vanity Fair)

Damon Linker – Love and Sex in the Age of Tinder (The Week)

Th 11/19 IN CLASS EXAM

T 11/24 Movie

Th 11/26 No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Sex and Food (week 15)

T 12/1 Mary Eberstadt – Is Food the New Sex?

Th 12/3 Reflections on the Course

M 12/14 FINAL PAPER DUE by 11:00 am