

Introduction to Ethics: Love and Sex

PHILOSOPHY 1308
SPRING 2016 BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Rettler,

Time and Location: Tues/Thurs 3:30-4:45 pm, Morrison 106

Contact: lindsayrettler@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tues 1:30-3:30 pm, Morrison 220

Course Website:

<http://lindsayrettler.weebly.com/phil-1308-love-and-sex-spring-2016-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 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? 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 (5%): 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.

3 Critical Papers, 4-5 pages, 20% each (60% 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. I will provide a list of options for paper topics. Please see the course schedule for due dates.

Exam (25%): The exam is a series of short essay questions answered in class the second to last week of classes on Tuesday, April 14. 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.

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.

Late Assignments: All papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will be penalized one partial letter 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.

Administrative Issues continued...

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. Please complete the readings before class on the days for which they are listed. I reserve the right to change this schedule at any time, though I will notify you in advance. You should always check the course website for the most up to date list of readings and deadlines.

INTRODUCTION and SOME LOGIC (weeks 1-2)

T 1/12 Syllabus, What is Flirting?

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

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

Th 1/14 No Class

T 1/19 James Pryor: What is an Argument?; How to Read Philosophy; and How to Write Philosophy

WHAT IS LOVE? (weeks 2-3)

Th 1/21 Plato – *Symposium*

T 1/26 *Symposium* continued

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

Optional: C.D.C. Reeve – Plato on Friendship and Eros (contains a good discussion of the *Symposium*)

LOVE in FRIENDSHIP (weeks 3-4)

Th 1/28 Aristotle – *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VIII: 1155a3 (p. 1825)–1158a27 (p. 1830)

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

T 2/2 C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*, chapter 3: Affection (1960)

Th 2/4 C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*, chapter 4: Friendship (1960)

LOVE, RISK and CONTROL (weeks 5-7)

T 2/9 C.S. Lewis *The Four Loves*, chapter 5: Eros (1960)

Th 2/11 Annette Baier – Unsafe Loves (1991)

LAST DAY TO TURN IN CRITICAL PAPER #1

T 2/16 C.S. Lewis – *The Four Loves*, chapter 6: Charity

Th 2/18 David Foster Wallace – This is Water: *audio*

T 2/23 Tom Crisp – Jesus and Affluence (2011), pp. 1-23

Th 2/25 Crisp, pp. 23-29

WHAT IS SEX? (week 8)

T 3/1 Alan Goldman – Plain Sex (1977)

Th 3/3 William May – Four Mischievous Theories of Sex (2007)

LAST DAY TO TURN IN CRITICAL PAPER #2

T 3/8 No Class – Spring Break

Th 3/10 No Class – Spring Break

MARRIAGE (weeks 10-11)

T 3/15 Bryan Weaver and Fiona Woolland – Marriage and the Norm of Monogamy (2008)

Th 3/17 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)

T 3/22 Alexander Pruss – Not Out of Lust, but in Accordance with Truth (2003)

Th 3/24 Pruss, continued

OBJECTIFICATION (week 12)

T 3/29 Martha Nussbaum – Objectification (1995), pp. 249-271

Th 3/31 Nussbaum, pp. 271-291

PORNOGRAPHY (week 13)

T 4/5 Michael Rea – What is Pornography? (2001)

Th 4/7 Rea, continued

LAST DAY TO TURN IN CRITICAL PAPER #3

RAPE and CONSENT (weeks 14-15)

T 4/12 *No Class – Diadeloso*

Th 4/14 Lois Pineau – Date Rape: A Feminist Analysis (1996)

T 4/19 Larry May and Robert Strikwerda – Men in Groups: Collective Responsibility for Rape (2014)

Th 4/21 *IN-CLASS EXAM*

LOVE & TINDER and SEX & FOOD (weeks 15-16)

T 4/26 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 4/28 Mary Eberstadt – Is Food the New Sex?; and Final Reflections on the Course