

Philosophy of Love, Sex, and Friendship
(Phil 315)

Professor: Dr. Williams
Office: Daniel Building 208
Office Phone: 597-4907
Email: WilliamsNM@wofford.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:30-3:30 and Tuesday 5-6:30 or by appt.
Class Time/Location: T (6:30-9:00)/Daniel Building 218

Course Description

A seminar on the nature and morality of love, sex, and friendship and their social meanings. Topics to be discussed include the different types of love and sexuality, sexual violence, prostitution, marriage, and friendship. Emphasis is on the study of how gender norms inform our understanding of the controversies surrounding these topics.

The course can count toward a requirement for the Gender Studies Program.

Required Texts/Readings

- *Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love*, Robert Stewart, ed., Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Additional required readings on E-Reserve

Learning Objectives

Students are expected to:

- become more skillful in reading and analyzing philosophical texts;
- improve critical-thinking skills and to effectively defend, in both oral and written forms, specific philosophical positions on controversial issues;
- develop an appreciation of different points of view;
- analyze the social and personal significance of gender in contemporary life by way of diverse philosophical perspectives.

Methods of Evaluation and Grade Distribution

- **Two in-class essay exams:** exams will measure students' ability to articulate various arguments, identify and understand key terms/concepts, and to offer a brief analysis of those arguments. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade.
- **Short Writing Assignments:** a short essay (300-500 words) will be due each week. All essay prompts will stem from the assigned readings and/or class discussions. Cumulative average is worth 20% of your final grade.
- **Final Paper:** a 7-10 page paper critiquing one or more arguments made in the assigned readings. Paper outlines will be required as well as a 5-10 minute presentation of those outlines the last week of class. The paper is worth 30% of your final grade.

Grading Scale (percentage): A =100-94; A- = 93-90; B+ = 89-87; B =86-84; B- =83-80; C+ = 79-77; C =76-74; C- =73-70; D =69-60; F =below 60

Late Work

All work is due at the beginning of class. For every hour an assignment is late, half a letter grade will be deducted. Handwritten work will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Attendance

Attendance is required in this class. Because we meet only once a week, I have a very strict attendance policy. If you miss class it needs to be for a legitimate reason. If you have two or more

absences, I have the right to drop you from the class. I will record attendance at every class meeting and you are required to arrive at class on time and remain for the entire period in order to be counted as present.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance to Wofford's honor code, which can be found at <http://www.wofford.edu/studentlife/honorCode.pdf>

Disability

If you have a disability that requires my attention please let me know as soon as possible so that I may accommodate you.

Reading schedule and due dates (subject to change)

- *Philosophical Perspectives on Sex and Love* (PPSL)
- E-Reserve (ER)

Week 1 --- Sept. 4 *Erotic Love*

Introductions/discussion: "What are the essential features of erotic love?"

- Simone de Beauvoir, "The Woman in Love" (PPSL)
- Robert Nozick, "Love's Bond" (PPSL)

Week 2 --- Sept. 11 (*Agape*) *Love*

Guest Speaker, Dr. David Alvis, Government Department

Reading: Plato's *Symposium* and *Genesis* (ER)

- Vatican, "Declaration on Sexual Ethics" (ER)
- Immanuel Kant, "Duties Towards the Body in Respect of Sexual Impulse" (PPSL)

Week 3 --- Sept. 18 *Sex*

- Robert Baker, "The Language of Sex" (ER)
- John Stoltenberg, "How Men Have (a) Sex" (ER)
- Robin West, "The Harms of Consensual Sex" (ER)
- TED talk, Tony Porter, "A Call to Men"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=td1PbsV6B80>

Week 4 --- Sept. 25 *Sexual Violence*

- Susan Griffen, "Rape: The All-American Crime" (ER)
- Tim Beneke, "Men on Rape" (ER)
- Robin Warshaw, "I Never Called it Rape" (ER)
- Unknown, "The Rape of Mr. Smith" (ER)

Video: *Dreamworlds 3* or *The Bro Code*

Week 5 --- Oct. 2 *Prostitution*

- Lars Ericsson, "Charges Against Prostitution: An Attempt at a Philosophical Task" (ER)
- Laurie Shrage, "Should Feminists Oppose Prostitution?" (PPSL)
- Sunny Carter, "A Most Useful Tool" (ER)
- Evelina Giobbe, "Confronting the Liberal Lies About Prostitution" (ER)

Week 6 ---- Oct. 9

Midterm exam

Video: *TBD*

Week 7 --- Oct. 16 *Sexuality*

- Dennis Prager, "Homosexuality, the Bible, and Us: A Jewish Perspective" (ER)
- Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (ER)

Week 8 --- Oct. 23

- Christine Overall, "Heterosexuality and Choice" (ER)
- Karin Baker, "Bisexual Feminist Politics" (ER)
- Annie Sprinkle, "Beyond Bisexual" (ER)
- Southern Women's Collective "Sex Resistance in Heterosexual Arrangements" (ER)
- Sandra Bartky, "Feminine Masochism and the Politics of Personal Transformation" (ER)

Week 9 --- Oct. 30 *Marriage*

- Angela Bolte, "Do Wedding Dresses Come in Lavender?" (ER)
- Claudia Card, "Against Motherhood and Marriage" (ER)

Week 10 --- Nov. 6 *Friendship*

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (PPSL)
- Ellen Fox, "Paternalism and Friendship" (PPSL)
- James Conlon, "Why Lovers Can't Be Friends" (PPSL)
- Anthony Graybosch, "Parents, Children, and Friendship" (PPSL)

Week 11 --- Nov. 13

Exam 2

Student meetings to discuss paper outlines

Week 12 --- Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Paper outlines due Monday, Nov. 19 via email

Week 13 --- Nov. 27

Student presentations of final paper outlines

Week 14 --- Dec. 4

Student presentations of final paper outlines

Final Paper: due exam day (TBA)