

University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy
PHIL 201
Philosophy of Sex and Love
Winter 2016
Tue/Thur 4:00-5:20, RCH 205

Instructor Information

Instructor: Patricia Marino

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Course Description

This course will consider various topics in the philosophy of sex and love, with a focus on contemporary issues and research. We will discuss questions having to do with lust, objectification, consent and rape, sex work, medicalization, the nature of love and its relation to autonomy, orientations and identities, race, relationships and preferences, polyamory, and promising to love. The course takes a philosophical approach to these topics. We'll talk more about what this means in class, obviously, but broadly speaking the philosophical method is one that uses reason and logic to figure out what is true. Clarity and precision in thought and expression are essential. This course does not endorse any particular conclusion about any of the topics listed. Rather, the point is for you to understand what others have had to say, and to develop, possibly change, and learn how to intelligently defend, your own opinions. This course covers some sensitive and potentially disturbing material; if you have questions or concerns about this please talk to me as soon as possible.

I will post study questions on LEARN ahead of time for each week's reading and you should come to class having given some thought to these. Course announcements and information will be on the LEARN page so please check it daily.

If you have questions about the syllabus, the course, the requirements, the assignments, or anything else to do with this course, please do not hesitate to ask!

Readings Available on LEARN

All readings are posted on LEARN as pdfs you can download.

Course Requirements and Assessment

- Paper 1: Feb 4, 20%
- Test 1: Feb 11, 20%
- Paper 2: Mar 17, 30%
- Test 2: Mar 31, 20%
- Attendance and participation: 10%

Papers

The first paper should be 900-1200 words and topics will be handed out. For the first paper, you have the option of handing in a rewrite based on my comments. If you choose to do this your new paper grade will be an average of the original and the rewrite; your grade will not go down if the new draft is worse, but improved grades require significant changes and not just small edits. Paper assignments will ask you to write about your own ideas about a philosophical problem while engaging the texts and ideas we've encountered in class. The focus is on presenting an original argument. Of course this means the ideas in your papers must be your own; we will talk more in class about how to ensure that the ideas you present as your own really are, and how to cite any outside sources you do use appropriately. If you have any questions at any time about academic honesty and what it requires, do not hesitate to ask. Just raise your hand or approach me after class. The second paper should be similar in format and content to the first, with topics handed out. The second paper should be 1500-1800 words. For help with writing, check out [The Writing Centre](#).

Tests

Tests will be a mix of short answer and short essay; test 1 covers the first six weeks of material. Test 1 covers the first half of the course and test 2 the second half.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required and everyone should participate in class discussion. Participation includes various things: you may pose an informed question, or volunteer an answer a question, or offer a response to me or to another student. Participation in this class can also take any the following forms: you can speak up during class, you can email a comment or question to me, or you can come talk with me one on one. If you post or email your contribution, I may read it out loud in class (without identifying who you are). If you come to class regularly without participating, your attendance and participation grade will be 70 percent (you may miss up to three classes for any reason with no penalty). If you participate regularly that will increase your participation grade; if you attend less frequently that will lower it. I will post attendance and participation grades on LEARN at the end of term; if you don't agree with yours please email me and we can discuss it.

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction and lust

- Jan 5 Introduction
- Jan 7 Simon Blackburn, *Lust: The Seven Deadly Sins* (Oxford University Press, 2004), Chapters 3, 10, and 11. (Don't worry; these chapters are short.)

Week 2: Objectification

- Jan 12: Martha Nussbaum, "Objectification," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 24 (1995).
- Jan 14: Martha Nussbaum, "Objectification," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 24 (1995), continued.

Week 3: Objectification continued, and pornography

- Jan 19: Patricia Marino, "The Ethics of Sexual Objectification: Autonomy and Consent," *Inquiry* 51 (2008), 345-364.
- Jan 21: Nancy Bauer, "Pornutopia," *n+1* 5 (2007), online at <http://nancybauer1.com/doc/bauer%20pornutopia%20n+1.pdf> and Ann Garry, "Sex, Lies, and Pornography," in *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, 344–355.

Week 4: Consent and date rape

- Jan 26: Lois Pineau, "Date Rape: A Feminist Analysis," *Law and Philosophy* 8 (1989), 217-243.
- Jan 28: Alan Soble, "Antioch's Sexual Offense Policy: A Philosophical Exploration," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 28 (1997), 22-36.

Week 5: Sex work

- Feb 2: Yolanda Estes, "Moral Reflections on Prostitution," *Essays in Philosophy* 2 (2001), and Laurie Shrage, "Should Feminists Oppose Prostitution?" *Ethics* 99 (1989), 347-361.
- Feb 4: Jeffrey Gauthier, "Prostitution, Sexual Autonomy, and Sex Discrimination," *Hypatia* vol. 26, no. 1 (Winter, 2011). **First paper due.**

Week 6: Medicalization (and first test)

- Feb 9: John Bancroft, "The Medicalization of Female Sexual Dysfunction: The Need for Caution," *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 31(5) (2002), 451-455 and Leonore Tiefer, "Female Sexual Dysfunction: a Case Study of Disease Mongering and Activist Resistance," *PLoS Medicine*, 3(4), (2006), e178.
- Feb 11: **First test**

READING WEEK

Week 7: Identities and orientations of sex and love

- Feb 23: Ed Stein, "Sexual Orientations, Rights, and the Body: Immutability, Essentialism, and Nativism." *Social Research: an International Quarterly*, 78(2), 633–658 (2011).
- Feb 25: William Wilkerson "Is It a Choice? Sexual Orientation as Interpretation," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 40.1 (2009): 97-116.

Week 8: Theories of love: union views

- Mar 1: Robert Nozick, "Love's Bond," in his *Examined Life*, Simon and Shuster, 1989.
- Mar 3: Noël Merino, "The Problem with 'We': Rethinking Joint Identity in Romantic Love," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 35 (2004) 123-132.

Week 9: Theories of love: caring views

- Mar 8: Harry Frankfurt, "Autonomy, Necessity, and Love" in his *Necessity, Volition, and Love*, Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Mar 10: Gary Foster, "Bestowal Without Appraisal: Problems in Frankfurt's Characterization of Love and Personal Identity," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 12(2) (2009), 153–168.

Week 10: Race, relationships, and preferences

- Mar 15: Raja Halwani, "Racial Sexual Desires," pre-print.
- Mar 17: Robin Zheng, "Why Yellow Fever Isn't Flattering: A Case Against Racial Fetishes," pre-print. **Second paper due.**

Week 11: Polyamory

- Mar 22: Elizabeth Emens, "Monogamy's Law: Compulsory Monogamy and Polyamorous Existence," *NYU Review of Law & Social Change*, 29 (2004), sections I, II, and III (pages 277-330).
- Mar 24: Elizabeth Emens, "Monogamy's Law: Compulsory Monogamy and Polyamorous Existence," *NYU Review of Law & Social Change*, 29 (2004), sections IV, V, and VI (pages 330-376).

Week 12: Is marriage a promise? (and second test)

- Mar 29: Elizabeth Brake, "Is Divorce Promise-Breaking?" *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 14 (2011), 23-39.
- Mar 31: **second test**

Late work

Please submit your papers to LEARN before class on the day they are due. Obviously, you should hand in your papers on time, but if you must be late, I will subtract three percentage points from your paper grade per day of lateness. If you experience unexpected difficulties like illness or personal difficulties, please let me know as soon as possible; if you expect to miss a deadline, let me know by email before the deadline rather than after.

Information on Plagiarism Detection

No formal or technological plagiarism detection mechanisms will be used in this class.

Electronic Device Policy

There is no formal policy against the use of laptops or tablets in class, but there are two rules: 1) please do not use technology in ways that are distracting to me or to the other students and 2) please be mentally present for what is going on in the classroom. This means no videos, no social networking, no email, and no checking your phone during class. If you must use your phone, please leave the classroom.

Etiquette

Please feel free to call me "Patricia." Or you can call me "Professor Marino" or "Dr. Marino" if you prefer.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required, but you may miss up to three class meetings with no penalty. See information under "Attendance and participation" above. If you experience unexpected problems like illness or personal difficulties, or you expect to miss more than three class meetings for any other reason, please let me know as soon as possible.

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Other sources of information for students:

[Academic Integrity website \(Arts\)](#)

[Academic Integrity Office \(UWaterloo\)](#)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.