

**PHIL 3373**  
**Philosophy of Love**  
 愛情哲學

**Course overview**

This course discusses the idea of love in the Western philosophical tradition, from Plato's *eros*, Aristotle's *philia*, the Christian *agape*, through the idea of passionate love in the Middle Ages, to the phenomenology of love in the 20th century. The problem of love, i.e. *qing*, in the Chinese philosophical tradition will also be discussed.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Ability to understand the complex meaning of the concept of love in Western and Chinese philosophical traditions.
2. Ability to read the classic texts on love.
3. Ability to reflect critically on the phenomenon of love.

**Topics**

1. Introduction
2. *Eros*
3. *Philia*
4. *Agape*
5. Phenomenology of love

**Learning activities**

*In this course, you are expected to:*

1. Read and think about the assigned readings;
2. Develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing;
3. Attend *all* lectures and participate in discussion.

*Activities and workload are:*

1. Lecture: 3 hours per week.
2. Reading: 3 hours per week on the basic and suggested readings.
3. Essays: 3 hours per week on preparing and writing essay assignments throughout the term.

**Assessment scheme**

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Note</i>
1. Class presentation	Presentation of assigned reading	20%	Zero mark for absence on the day of your presentation
2. Class participation	Comments and discussions	20%	Zero mark for absence or no participation
3. Essay outline	Prepare an 1-page outline showing the argumentation of your final paper	10%	Submit an 1 page outline on the argumentation of the final paper
4. Essay	Write a final paper following the argumentation of the essay outline	50%	Submit the final paper of 4000-5000 words with signed veriguide receipt

\* IMPORTANT: Late submissions will not be assessed except for cases with justified reason.

## Recommended learning resources

### Required readings:

1. Plato, *Lysis; Symposium; Gorgias*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001.
2. Aristotle, *The Nicomachean ethics*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.
3. Scheler, *The Nature of Sympathy*. London: Routledge, 1954.

### Other readings:

1. Alberoni, F. *Falling in Love*. New York: Random House, 1983.
2. Bauman, Zygmunt. *Liquid Love*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2003.
3. Bergmann, Martin. *The Anatomy of Loving*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1987.
4. Blosser, Philip & Bradley, Marshall C. ed. *Friendship*. New York: University Press of America, 1997.
5. Evans, Mary. *Love: An Unromantic Discussion*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2003.
6. Frankfurt, Harry G. *The Reasons of Love*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004
7. Fromm, Eric. *The Art of Loving*. New York: Harper, 1956
8. Giddens, Anthony. *The Transformation of Intimacy*. Oxford: Polity Press, 1992.
9. Hazo, Robert. *The Idea of Love*. New York: F.A. Praeger, 1967
10. Johnson, Rolf M. *Three Faces of Love*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2001.
11. Lamb, E. Roger. ed. *Love Analyzed*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1997.
12. Lewis, C.S. *The Four Loves*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc., 1965
13. Ortega, Y. Gasset. *On Love*. New York: Meridian Books, 1957.
14. Pakaluk, Michael. ed. *Other Selves, Philosophers on Friendship*. Indianapolis: Hackat Publishing Co., 1991.
15. Rougemont, Dennis. *Love in the Western World*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1983.
16. Santas, Gerasimos. *Plato and Freud: Two Theories of Love*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1988.
17. Secomb, Linnell. *Philosophy and Love*. Bloomington: Indiana university Press, 2007
18. Singer, Irving. *The Nature of Love*. 3 vols. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1960, 1984, 1987.
19. Singer, Irving. *The Pursuit of Love*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, 1994.
20. Soble, Allen. ed. *Eros, Agape and Philia: Readings in the Philosophy of Love*. New York: Paragon House, 1989.
21. Soble, Allen. *The Structure of Love*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1990.
22. Soble, Allen. *The Philosophy of Sex and Love*. 2nd edition. St. Paul: Paragon House, 2008.
23. Solomon, Robert. *Love, Emotion, Myth and Metaphor*. Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1990.
24. Solomon, Robert. ed. *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*. Kansas: Univ. Press of Kansas, 1991.
25. Wagoner, Robert E. *The Meaning of Love*. Westport: Praeger, 1997

## Course schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Reading list	Remarks
1	3/9	1. Introduction	TBA	
2	10/9	2. Eros		
3	17/9			
4	24/9			
5	2/10	3. Philia		
6	9/10			
7	16/10			
8	23/10	4. Agape		
9	30/10			
10	6/11			
11	13/11	5. Phenomenology of Love		
12	20/11			
13	27/11	Conclusion		

### Details of course website

Blackboard: <http://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk/>

### Feedback for evaluation

1. Students are welcome to give feedback on the course at any time. They can do so by communication to teacher or tutor in class, by email, posting comments and questions to the eLearning platform, or during tutorials.
2. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, students evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term.

### Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

#### Teacher

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### Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.