UGED2891 Philosophy of Love
Course Outline

Teacher: Dr. LAU Po Hei
Time: Tue 10:30-13:15
Venue: UCA 312

Course Overview

- This course aims at a philosophical discussion on the theories of love in the Chinese and Western culture.
- Topics include: evaluation of the philosophical approach to the phenomena of love in the Chinese and Western tradition, classical Western theories of love, Christian thought on love, traditional Chinese theories of love, and philosophy of love in modern society.

Learning Outcomes

- Recognize and understand concepts and theories about love and their significance
- Recognize the relationship between love experience and the development of self-understanding, and the value of human life as a whole
- Critically analyze and evaluate the experiences of love and formulate their own understanding of love

Learning Activities

1. In-class:
   - Lecture: 26 hours
   - Discussion and Presentation: 13 hours
2. Out-of-class:
   - Reading (1-2 hour(s)/week)
   - Movie Watching

Assessment Scheme

Assessment Component	Description	Weight (%)
Class Participation	To engage with classmates in class	10%
Class Presentation	To present an article in class	10%
Film Review	To view an assigned film (1 out of 3) and write a review	30%
Final Exam	To answer multiple choice (10%) & essay questions (40%)	50%

Late Submission Policy

Assessment Task	Description
Class Participation	/
Class Presentation	/
Film Review	- A 10% deduction for each day of delay - Marks will not be given for a delay beyond 3 calendar days - Only exceptional circumstances beyond one's control will be considered.
Final Exam	/

AI Tools Usage Approach

- Class Participation (10%); Class Presentation (10%); Film Review (30%)
  - Approach: Prohibit all use of AI tools
    - ✓ Students are <u>not</u> allowed to use any AI tools in these learning activities and/or assessments.
- Final Exam (50%)
  - Approach: Use only with explicit acknowledgement
    - ✓ Students are allowed to use AI tools in this learning assessment, as long as they explicitly cite or otherwise acknowledge the use of these tools.

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 are 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.

Grade Descriptors

- http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Weekly Course Schedule & Reading Assignment

Date	Topic	Required readings
6/1 (Week 1)	Love: a Philosophical Inquiry	• "Puzzles" (De Sousa, 2015) • 〈愛情不問理由？〉(郭柏年，2020)
13/1 (Week 2)	The Evolution of Love: Battles of the Sexes?	• "Battle of the Sexes" (Dawkins, 2006) • "Out of Eden" (Fisher, 2016) • 〈愛情與生物學有何關係？〉(普列希特，2021)
20/1 (Week 3)	*Eros* (1): Love in Greek Mythology	"Romantic Fatalism" (De Botton, 2006) • "The Birth of Aphrodite and a New Vocabulary of Love" (Bergmann, 1987) • "Metamorphoses of Mythology" (Morales, 2007)
27/1 (Week 4)	*Eros* (2): Platonic Love	*Symposium* (Plato, 1997) • "Plato" (May, 2011) • "The Speech of Alcibiades" (Nussbaum, 2001) • "Platonic Eros" (Singer, 2009)
3/2 (Week 5)	*Agape* (1): Love in the Old Testament	*The City of God* (Augustine, 2008) • "Augustine" (Geuss, 2017: 93-114) • "Nomos: Submission to God's Will" (Singer, 2009)
10/2 (Week 6)	*Agape* (2): Love in the New Testament	*Agape and Eros* (Nygren, 1982) • "Christianity" (May, 2011) • "Agape: The Divine Bestowal," (Singer, 2009) • "Christian Love" (Wagoner, 1997)
17/2 (Week 7)	*[Lunar New Year]*	/
24/2 (Week 8)	Romantic Love: Passion & Death	"The Tristan Myth," (De Rougemont, 1983) • "The Concept of Courtly Love" (Singer, 2009) • "Romantic Love" (Wagoner, 1997)
3/3 (Week 9)	*[Reading Week]*	/
10/3 (Week 10)	Skepticism of Love (1): Stendhal & Schopenhauer	"The Metaphysics of Sexual Love" (Schopenhauer, 1966) • "Schopenhauer" (May, 2011) • "On Love," (Stendhal, 1991)
17/3 (Week 11)	Skepticism of Love (2): Freud & Psychoanalysis	*An Outline of Psychoanalysis* (Freud, 1964) • "Freud's Indebtedness to Plato," "What Freud Discovered about Love" (Bergmann, 1987) • "Freud" (May, 2011) • "Freud's Theory of Love" (Santas, 1988)
24/3 (Week 12)	Modern Love (1): Sociology of Love	*The Normal Chaos of Love* (Beck, 1995) • "Falling In and Out of Love," "In and Out of the Toolbox of Sociality" (Bauman, 2003) • "Intimacy as Democracy" (Giddens, 1992)
31/3 (Week 13)	Modern Love (2): Sartre's Existentialism	*Being and Nothingness* (Sartre, 1993) • "Jean-Paul Sartre and Loving Sadomasochistically" (Cleary, 2015)
7/4 (Week 14)	*[Easter]*	/
14/4 (Week 15)	Conclusion	*In Praise of Love* (Badiou, 2009) • "Love's Bond" (Nozick, 1989)

Required Readings

May, Simon. 2011. *Love: A History*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
張燦輝，2023。《生死愛欲 I》，《生死愛欲 II》。臺北：漫遊者。

Other Recommended Readings/ Learning Resources

Armstrong, John. 2003. *Conditions of Love: the Philosophy of Intimacy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo. 2008. *The City of God*, Books VIII-XVI (selection), trans. Gerald G. Walsh and Grace Monahan. Washington: Catholic University of America Press.
Badiou, Alain. 2009. *In Praise of Love*. New York: The New Press Palgrave.
Bauman, Zygmunt. 2003. *Liquid Love: on the Frailty of Human Bonds*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Beck, Ulrich. 1995. *The Normal Chaos of Love*, trans. Mark Ritter & Jane Wiebel. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Bergmann, Martin. 1987. *The Anatomy of Loving*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Cleary, Skye. 2015. *Existentialism and Romantic Love*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Dawkins, Richard. 2006. *The Selfish Gene*, 30th anniversary ed. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.
De Botton, Alain. 2006. *Essays in Love*. Reprinted ed. London: Picador.
De Rougemont, Denis. 1983. *Love in the Western World*, rev. ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
De Sousa, Ronald. 2015. *Love: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Fisher, Helen E. 2016. *Anatomy of Love: a Natural History of Mating, Marriage, and Why We Stray*. New York: Norton.
Freud, Sigmund. 1964. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, vol. 23: An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, ed. James Strachey. London: Hogarth Press.
Geuss, Raymond. 2017. *Changing the Subject: Philosophy from Socrates to Adorno*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Giddens, Anthony. 1992. *The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
Grau, Christopher; Smuts, Aaron (ed.). 2024. *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Lee, Haiyan. 2007. *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
Martin, Adrienne M. (ed.). 2019. *The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy*. New York: Roudledge.
Nozick, Robert. 1989. *The Examined Life: Philosophical Meditation*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
Nussbaum, Martha Craven. 2001. *The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy*, rev. ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Nygren, Anders. 1982. *Agape and Eros*, trans. Philip S. Watson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
Plato. 1997. *Complete Works*, ed. John M. Cooper & D.S. Hutchinson. Indianapolis: Hackett.
Santas, Gerasimos. 1988. *Plato and Freud: Two Theories of Love*. Oxford: B. Blackwell.
Sartre, Jean-Paul. 1993. *Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology*, trans. Hazel E. Barnesnger. New York: Washington Square Press.
Schopenhauer, Arthur. 1966. *The World as Will and Representation*, vol. 2, trans. E.F.J. Payne. New York: Dover.
Singer, Irving. 2009. *The Nature of Love, vol. 1-3*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
Soble, Alan (ed.). 1989. *Eros, Agape, and Philia: Readings in the Philosophy of Love*. New York: Paragon House.
Stendhal. 1991. "On Love," *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*, ed. Robert Solomon. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas, p.132-139.
Wagoner, Robert E. 1997. *The Meanings of Love: An Introduction to Philosophy of Love*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger.
郭柏年，2020。《定見之外：生活日常的哲學短篇》。香港：牛津大學。
李歐梵，2005。《中國現代作家的浪漫一代》，王宏志等譯。北京：新星。
楊聯芬，2016。《浪漫的中國：性別視角下激進主義思潮與文學 (1890-1940)》。北京：人民文學。
〔德〕理察・大衛・普列希特（Precht, Richard David），2021。《愛情的哲學》，關旭玲譯。臺北：商周 。

Contact

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