PHIL3373 Philosophy of Love
Course Outline

Teacher: Dr. LAU Po Hei
Time: Thu 15:30-18:15
Venue: FYB 405

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 1: 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 2: 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 here.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- 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.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as instructed by the course teacher.

Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

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Grade Descriptors

- https://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Grade_descriptors.pdf

Weekly Course Schedule & Reading Assignment

Date	Topic	Required readings
14/1 (Week 1)	Love: a Philosophical Inquiry	• "Puzzles" (De Sousa, 2015) • 〈愛情不問理由？〉(郭柏年，2020)
21/1 (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)
28/1 (Week 3)	*Eros* (1): Love in Greek Mythology	"Romantic Fatalism" (De Botton, 2006) • "Metamorphoses of Mythology" (Morales, 2007) • "The Birth of Aphrodite and a New Vocabulary of Love" (Bergmann, 1987)
4/2 (Week 4)	*Eros* (2): Platonic Love	*Symposium* (Plato, 1997) • "Plato" (May, 2011) • "Platonic Eros" (Singer, 2009) • "The Speech of Alcibiades" (Nussbaum, 2001)
11/2 (Week 5)	*[Lunar New Year]*	/
18/2 (Week 6)	*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)
25/2 (Week 7)	*Agape* (2): Love in the New Testament	*Agape and Eros* (Nygren, 1982) • "Agape: The Divine Bestowal," (Singer, 2009) • "Christian Love" (Wagoner, 1997) • "Christianity" (May, 2011)
4/3 (Week 8)	Romantic Love: Passion & Death	"The Tristan Myth," (De Rougemont, 1983) • "Romantic Love" (Wagoner, 1997) • "The Concept of Courtly Love" (Singer, 2009)
11/3 (Week 9)	*[Reading Week]*	/
18/3 (Week 10)	Critique of Romantic Love (1) The Chinese Idea of *Qing* 情	〈浪漫之愛與道德之情〉(張燦輝，2023) • 〈情感的旅程〉(李歐梵，2005：260-277) • 〈戀愛：由新名詞到關鍵詞〉(楊聯芬，2016)
25/3 (Week 11)	Critique of Romantic Love (2) Stendhal & Schopenhauer	"The Metaphysics of Sexual Love" (Schopenhauer, 1966) • "On Love," (Stendhal, 1991) • "Schopenhauer" (May, 2011)
1/4 (Week 12)	Love & Sexuality	"Love: What's Sex Got to Do With It?" (McKeever, 2016) • "Love" (Scruton, 2006) • "Plain Sex" (Goldman, 1977)
8/4 (Week 13)	Love & Marriage	*Minimizing Marriage* (Brake, 2012) • "Is 'Loving More' Better?" (Brake, 2022) • "Love and Marriage" (Marino, 2019)
15/4 (Week 14)	Love & Reason	*The Reasons of Love* (Frankfurt, 2004) • "Love as a Moral Emotion" (Velleman, 1999) • "Love as Valuing a Relationship" (Kolodny, 2003)
22/4 (Week 15)	Love & Technology	*Love + Sex with Robots* (Levy, 2007) • *Robot Sex: Social and Ethical Implications.* (Danaher & McArthur, 2017)

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.
Bergmann, Martin. 1987. *The Anatomy of Loving*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Brake, Elizabeth. 2012. *Minimizing Marriage: Marriage, Morality, and the Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Brake, Elizabeth. 2022. "Is 'Loving More' Better? The Values of Polyamory" *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings* (8th edition). Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield. pp. 121-139.
Danaher, John & McArthur, Neil (ed.). 2017. *Robot Sex: Social and Ethical Implications*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
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.
Frankfurt, Harry G. 2004. *The Reasons of Love*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Geuss, Raymond. 2017. *Changing the Subject: Philosophy from Socrates to Adorno*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
Goldman, Alan. 1977. "Plain Sex," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 6.3: 267-287.
Grau, Christopher & Smuts, Aaron (ed.). 2024. *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Kolodny, Niko. 2003. "Love as Valuing a Relationship," *The Philosophical Review* 112.2: 135-189.
Levy, David. 2007. *Love + Sex with Robots: The Evolution of Human-Robot Relationships*. New York: HarperCollins.
Marino, Patricia. 2019. "'Love and Marriage," *Philosophy of Sex and Love: An Opinionated Introduction*. New York: Routledge, pp. 128-149.
Martin, Adrienne M. (ed.). 2019. *The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy*. New York: Roudledge.
McKeever, Natasha. 2016. "Love: What's Sex Got to Do With It?" *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 30.2: 201-218.
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.
Schopenhauer, Arthur. 1966. *The World as Will and Representation*, vol. 2, trans. E.F.J. Payne. New York: Dover.
Scruton, Roger. 2006. "Love," *Sexual Desire: A Philosophical Investigation*. London: Continuum, pp. 213-252.
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.
Velleman J. David. 1999. "Love as a Moral Emotion," *Ethics* 109.2: 338-374.
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〕普列希特（Precht, Richard David），2021。《愛情的哲學》，關旭玲譯。臺北 : 商周 。

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