

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

**Discipline: Philosophy**

**Fall 2008**

**PHIL 125Z-1/PHIL 125Z-2: Philosophy of Love, Sex, & Friendship (2 Sections)**

**Lower Division**

**Faculty Name: Scott Stewart**

Suggested Pre-requisites: None

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Philosophy literally means ‘lover of wisdom’ and from the beginning of western philosophy love has been a focus of philosophical analysis. Hence, it is an ideal place to get introduced to the subject, and to consider a host of questions. What are the relationships between sex, love and friendship? Can we have it all or, as Plato seems to suggest, must physical eroticism (and sex) be abandoned in favor of a transcendent love of idealized Forms if we are to achieve tranquility and knowledge in this world? Are our very identities changed by love? Can divorce tell us anything about the nature of love? What do ‘we’ look for in sex, in love, and in friendship? Is adultery immoral? What of promiscuity or homosexuality? Is there a difference between pornography and eroticism? Should either (or both) be censored? Should the government ban prostitution? What is ‘real’ friendship, and in what ways is it important in our lives? Can our lover actually be our best friend? Do the answers to our questions hold across all cultures or are they culturally relative?

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To reflect more deeply on the ways in which love, sex, and friendship are basic to our lives.
2. To think critically about important philosophical issues.
3. To learn to interpret well complex readings.
4. To reflect on the ways in which love, sex, and friendship may differ in different cultures.

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

### Major topics:

1. The ethics of homosexuality
2. The ethics of prostitution
3. The ethics of adultery and promiscuity
4. The ethics of pornography and eroticism
5. The nature of love
6. Friendship

Text: Course pack supplemented by course handouts and/or intranet holdings

Introduction: classifying and categorizing sexual acts (1 class)

Unit 1: The ethics of homosexuality; moral reasoning, normative moral theory; moral objectivism vs. moral relativism.

Readings: Pope Paul VI, "Vatican Declaration on Sexual Matters," Leiser, "Homosexuality and the 'Unnaturalness' Argument," Ruse, "Is Homosexuality Bad Sexuality."

Unit 2: The Ethics of Prostitution

Readings: Ericsson, "Charges Against Prostitution: An ... Assessment," Shrage, "Should Feminists Oppose Prostitution?" Stewart, Moral Criticism ... Prostitution."

Unit 3: The Ethics of Adultery and Promiscuity

Readings: Hume, "Of Chastity and Modesty," Wasserstrom, "Is Adultery Immoral?" Drukerman, "Lust in Translation," Perel, "Mating in Captivity," Elliston, "In Defense of Promiscuity"

Unit 4: Pornography and Eroticism

Readings: MacKinnon, Sexuality, Pornography, and method," Dworkin, "Intercourse," Bright, "'Introduction' to *Herotica*," Moloch, My Date with Marcie," Wicclair, "Feminism, Pornography, and Censorship."

Unit 5: Love

Readings: Plato, Aristophanes' speech from the *Symposium*, Plato, Socrates' speech from the *Symposium*, Singer, "Appraisal and Bestowal," Nozick, "Love's Bond," Solomon, "The Virtue of Romantic Love," Stewart, "Breaking Up is Hard to Do."

Unit 6: Friendship

Readings: Aristotle, Selection from *Nicomachean Ethics*, Cocking and Kennett, "Friendship and the self," Conlon, Can Lovers be Friends?"

Conclusion (1 class)

## FIELD COMPONENT

Each student is required to complete three practica (either Faculty Directed or Independent) during our voyage. At least two of these practica need to be Faculty Directed. If an Independent Practicum is selected, then the student must meet with me *prior* to arriving in the port-of-call to discuss his or her approach and objectives. All students are required to (1) keep a journal of their field observations and (2) write a 4-5 page paper about each field experience.

Journals should be a record of the student's notes from the field experience. Instructions regarding approach and field notes will be given prior to arriving to ports. Students are encouraged to engage a local person(s) in conversation about the work of art or temple and to make notes of relevant comments from this dialogue. (Given language barriers, this may not always be possible.)

The paper should include (1) a brief summary of the student's field notes, (2) an indication of how the practica related to relevant class readings and discussions of the issue being explored, and (3) the way(s) in which local practices influenced your beliefs about the theoretical issue as addressed in class and in your readings.

### SUGGESTED PRACTICA:

BRAZIL:	CHAME and Sex Workers (FDP)
NAMIBIA:	Walvis Bay Multipurpose Centre Trust (FDP)
SOUTH AFRICA:	The Triangle Project
VIET NAM:	Ho Chi Minh City Child Welfare Foundation
HONG KONG:	Sexuality in Hong Kong (FDP)

## METHODS OF EVALUATION

1.	Journal papers (3 short papers)	25%
2.	Assignment 1 (test in class A9, including some 'objective' questions, short answers, and a 'long' essay of 4-5 pages (handwritten, double-spaced)	25%
3.	Assignment 2 (test in class A19 of the sort above OR a 5-6 page research essay )	25%
4.	Final exam (which will have the same structure as the tests listed above)	25%

Although there is no formal grade given for class participation, I expect you to come to class each day, and to be prepared by having read and thought about the readings for that day. Past experience has shown a high correlation between class preparation, participation, and good grades. Students also tend to enjoy the class much more when they actively participate.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Course readings will be available for retrieval on the ship's intranet. No purchase is required.

## RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: Arthur Danto, Robert Solomon, and Kathleen Higgins, ed's.  
TITLE: *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*  
PUBLISHER: University press of Kansas  
ISBN #: 0700604804  
DATE/EDITION: 1991  
COST: \$41.43 (paperback)

AUTHOR: Alan Soble and Nicholas Power, ed's.  
TITLE: *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings*  
PUBLISHER: Rowan and Littlefield  
ISBN #: 0742547981  
DATE/EDITION: 2007/5'th  
COST \$40.10

## ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Carole Pateman. (1983).  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Defending prostitution: Charges against Ericsson."  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Ethics*  
VOLUME: 93 (3)  
DATE: 1983  
PAGES: 561-565

AUTHOR: Kamela Kempadoo  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The war on human trafficking in the Caribbean"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Race and Class*  
VOLUME:49  
DATE: 2  
PAGES 79-85

AUTHOR: Carina Ray  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "The sex trade in colonial West Africa"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *New African*  
VOLUME: 456  
DATE: 2006  
PAGES 62-64

AUTHOR: Kathy Miriam  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Stopping the traffic in women"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Journal of Social Philosophy*  
VOLUME: 36 (1)  
DATE: 2005  
PAGES 1-17

AUTHOR: Rae Langton  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Whose right? Dworkin, women, and pornographers"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Philosophy and Public Affairs*  
VOLUME: 19 (4)  
DATE: 1990  
PAGES 311-359

AUTHOR: P. Mankekar  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Dangerous Desires: Television and Erotics in Late Twentieth-century India"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: "Journal of Asian Studies"  
VOLUME: 63 (2)  
DATE: 2004  
PAGES 403-431

AUTHOR: Judith MacKay  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Global sex: Sexuality and sexual practices around the world"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*  
VOLUME: 16 (1)  
DATE: 2001  
PAGES 71-82

AUTHOR: J. David Velleman  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Love as Moral Emotion"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Ethics*  
VOLUME: 109 (2)  
DATE: 1999  
PAGES 338-374

AUTHOR: Michael Meyer  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Rights between friends"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Journal of Philosophy*  
VOLUME: 89 (9)  
DATE: 1992  
PAGES 467-483

AUTHOR: Nancy Sherman  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: "Aristotle on friendship and the shared life"  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*  
VOLUME: 47 (4)  
DATE: 1987  
PAGES 589-613