

# Love and Friendship

Phil 20602 - Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Ting Cho Lau

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Office Hours: Mon/Thurs 2-3pm Malloy 313

Meeting Time: 12:30-1:45pm Tues/Thurs

Classroom: Flanner Hall 824

## §1 Course Description and Objectives

Description: This course will examine philosophical issues related to love and friendship. The course is divided into roughly four units. The first unit covers basic ethical theories. The second unit examines different accounts of friendship. The third unit examines different accounts of romantic love. The fourth unit examines the relationship between love and morality.

Objectives:

- Grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different moral theories
- Grasp the strengths and weaknesses of different theories of love and friendship
- Develop philosophical skills in writing, reading, and speaking
- Become better lovers and friends

## §2 Materials

- Materials are available in folder

## §3 Assessment and Grading

Your final grade is determined by the following components:

### *Participation (10%)*

- This course is discussion based. The easiest way to gain participation points is to simply prepare the materials before class and be ready to speak once class starts. Quality of participation does not have to correlate with quantity of participation.
- If discussion is difficult for you for whatever reason, e-mail me or meet me in office hours. We can work out non-discussion-based ways of participation.
- I aim to provide notes of class readings before we have covered it in class. However, this will not always be the case. You are responsible for the material!

### *Two Papers (20%, 30%)*

- The first paper will be 3-4 pages
- The second paper will be 5-7 pages
- More details
  - Double-spaced, Times New Roman/Garamond, standard one-inch margins).
  - Please e-mail me a copy of your paper along with a hard copy in class.
  - Papers topics will be given. Papers will require you to either assess and critique an argument or to come up with your own argument for a position. Paper grading rubrics will be provided.

### *Project (40%)*

- Either:
  - [Preferred Option] 25 min project to be presented in class. Options include:
    - Leading discussion of an instructor-approved article
    - Organize and lead an in-class debate on an instructor-approved topic

- Present a podcast or video that either (a) explores and defends a philosophical topic related to love and friendship not explicitly covered in class or (b) applies philosophical theories to a piece of art (visual art, music, etc.).
- [Less Preferred but Equally Legitimate Option] – 15-page paper on a topic subject to my approval.

*Additional Point*

- I suspect the average grade will be a B+/A-. That said, I don't have a grade distribution in mind. If everyone, does good work, everyone can get an A. If no one does good work, then I am not obliged to give an A to anyone. Do good work and you'll get a good grade.
- Participation generally works to your advantage. If your participation is excellent, I will bump your grade as determined by your papers and final project by 1/3 of a letter grade.

## §4 Policies

*Mutual Respect:*

- Please show mutual respect and cordiality in discussion. Let the force of the arguments speak for themselves.
- I aim to give your papers back to you within two weeks. If you wish to challenge a grade, wait until at least the next session we meet. Advice: These meetings go best for you if you have an attitude open to improvement.
- We will discuss some sensitive topics and I will try to provide some context ahead of time. If you have any concerns before, during, or after a class session, feel free to contact me.

*Academic Integrity:*

- Do not plagiarize or cheat!
  - First, we're taking an ethics course! I want all of you to become good persons. It is an act of intellectual theft and dishonest to represent another's work as your own.
  - Second, if you do, **I will throw the book at you!** You will be punished to the full extent of the honor code.
  - Third, I won't penalize you if your paper is a day or two late.
  - Fourth, **if you end up being unoriginal and paraphrasing someone else's work, at least cite it and put it in your own words. Unoriginal papers that are at least accurate and clear can still get a C.**
- Avoiding plagiarism: (1) When borrowing an idea from a source, first paraphrase it in your own language and be sure to give a parenthetical citation (e.g. Smith (2004)). There is no penalty for "overciting". (2) When using a direct quotation, make sure that I have enough information to track it down if needed (e.g. website link, page number etc.)

*Late Policy:*

- Due dates are given to help facilitate grading and feedback. Aim to turn in papers by those dates for both our sakes. I will not be penalizing students if they miss these suggested deadlines. The one hard deadline is the date of the final exam scheduled for our course (though we won't have an exam). All papers must be turned in by that point.

*Attendance Policy*

- Excused absences will not entail automatic reductions, but frequent absences will affect your participation grade.

## §5 Schedule of Readings

Some Comments

- I try to keep readings within 35 pages per meeting. If the reading goes beyond that, I will tell you where to focus and will also provide a summary or overview in class.
- You can use the recommended reasons to dive deeper or discuss them in a paper or student presentation.

Phil 20602 – Love and Friendship – Syllabus  
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Week 1: Moral Theory	8/27 Intro (Syllabus, Logic Refresher, and the Trading Up Problem - Timmons Chapter 1 8/29 Consequentialism – Timmons Chapter 4
Week 2: Moral Foundations (1)	9/3 Kantian Ethics – Timmons Chapter 8 9/5 Virtue Ethics – Timmons Chapter 10 Recommended: Kant <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , Bentham <i>An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i>
Week 3 Moral Foundations (2)	9/10 Review and Preview 9/12 Plato’s Symposium (first half)
Week 4: Ancient Friendship	9/17 Plato’s Symposium (second half) 9/19 Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Books 8 and 9 (selections) Recommended: Plato <i>Lysis</i> , Augustine <i>City of God</i> Book 14
Week 5: Medieval and Early Modern Friendship	9/24 Montaigne “On Friendship”, Kant “Lecture on Friendship” 9/26 (3 presentations) Recommended: Nehamas <i>On Friendship</i> Chapter 1-3
Week 6: Contemporary Friendship	10/1 Nehamas – <i>On Friendship</i> Chapters 4 and 5 10/3 Lewis – <i>Four Loves</i> (Chapter 3), Kierkegaard “You Shall Love Your Neighbor”
Week 7: Friendship and Morality	10/8 Telfer “Friendship” 10/10 Cocking and Kennett “Friendship and Moral Danger”
Week 8: Student Presentations	10/15-17 (6 presentations)
Week 9: Break	No class on 10/22-24
Week 10: Romantic Love and Some Advice	10/29 Jollimore, <i>Love’s Vision</i> Chapter 1 10/31 Brogaard, <i>On Romantic Love: Simple Truths about a Complex Emotion</i> Chapters 1-4 Recommended: Jollimore Chapter 2 and 3, Brogaard Chapters 5-8.
Week 11: Love and Ethical Polyamory	11/5 Pruss <i>One Body: An Essay in Christian Sexual Ethics</i> (selections) 11/7 Jenkins <i>What Love Is: An What it Could Be</i> – Prologue, Chapter 4 and 5
Week 12: Parental Love and Presentations	11/12 Ta-Nehisi Coates - <i>Between the World and Me</i> (selections) 11/14 (3 presentations)
Week 13: The Trading Up Problem	11/19 Zangwill, “Love: Gloriously Amoral and Arational” 11/21 Lau – “Possessing Love’s Reasons” Recommended: Jollimore, <i>Love’s Vision</i> Chapter 4 and 5, Frankfurt <i>The Reasons of Love</i>
Week 14: Love and Morality (1)	11/26 Maguire - “Love in the Time of Consequentialism” Recommended: Velleman, “Love as a Moral Emotion”
Week 15: Love and Morality (2) and Student Presentations	12/3 Setiya - “Love and the Value of a Life” 12/5 Student Presentations (3 Presentations)
Week 16 Student Presentations and Wrap-Up	12/10 Student Presentations (3 Presentations) 12/12 Wrap-Up Lunch