

**UGED2891 Philosophy of Love
Course Outline**

Teacher: Mr. Chun-fai MA
Time: Wed 14:30-17:15 & Fri 14:30-17:15
Venue: (TBC)

Course Overview

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

Learning Outcomes

- Recognize different concepts and theories about love and understand their importance
- Recognize the relationship between love experience, 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 hours/lecture)
 - Movie Watching

Assessment Scheme

Assessment Component	Description	Weight (%)
Class Participation	To engage actively with classmates in class	10%
Class Presentation	To present an article in class (around 20 minutes)	20%
Film Review	To view an assigned film (1 out of 3) and write a review*	20%
Final Exam	To answer essay type questions (3 out of 5) *	50%
[*]: 10%-mark penalty for each day of delay		

Grade Descriptors

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

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.

Course Schedule & Lecture Readings		
Date	Topic	Lecture readings (<u>Required readings</u> are marked with an [*])
14/5 (Lecture 1)	Love: a Philosophical Inquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Puzzles” (De Sousa, 2015) • 〈愛情不問理由？〉 (郭柏年, 2020) *
16/5 (Lecture 2)	<i>Eros</i> (1): Love in Greek Mythology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Romantic Fatalism” (De Botton, 2006) • “The Birth of Aphrodite and a New Vocabulary of Love” (Bergmann, 1987) *
21/5 (Lecture 3)	<i>Eros</i> (2): Platonic Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Symposium</i> (Plato, 1997) • “The Speech of Alcibiades” (Nussbaum, 2001) *
23/5 (Lecture 4)	<i>Phila</i> : Aristotelian Friendship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Aristotle, 2019) • “Friendship Love and Romantic Love” (Brogaard, 2022) *
28/5 (Lecture 5)	<i>Agape</i> (1): Love in the Old Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The City of God</i> (Augustine, 2008) • “Augustine” (Geuss, 2017) *
30/5 (Lecture 6)	<i>Agape</i> (2): Love in the New Testament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agape and Eros</i> (Nygren, 1982) • “Agape: The Divine Bestowal” (Singer, 2009) *
4/6 (Lecture 7)	Romantic Love: Passion & Death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Tristan Myth” (De Rougemont, 1983) * • “The Concept of Courtly Love” (Singer, 2009)
6/6 (Lecture 8)	<i>Qing</i> (情): The Chinese Idea of Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 〈浪漫之愛與道德之情〉 (張燦輝, 2023) • 〈情感的旅程〉 (李歐梵, 2005: 260-277) *
11/6 (Lecture 9)	Skepticism of Love (1): Stendhal & Schopenhauer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Metaphysics of Sexual Love” (Schopenhauer, 1966) * • “Love as the Urge to procreate: Schopenhauer” (May, 2011)
13/6 (Lecture 10)	Skepticism of Love (2): Freud & Psychoanalysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An Outline of Psychoanalysis</i> (Freud, 1964) • “Love as a History of Loss: Freud” (May, 2011) *
18/6 (Lecture 11)	Modern Love (1): Sociology of Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Normal Chaos of Love</i> (Beck, 1995) * • 浪漫愛情之延續：傳統愛情思想的轉向 (張燦輝, 2023)
20/6 (Lecture 12)	Modern Love (2): Sartre’s Existentialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Being and Nothingness</i> (Sartre, 1993) • “Jean-Paul Sartre and Loving Sodomasochistically” (Cleary, 2015) *
25/6 (Lecture 13)	Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In Praise of Love</i> (Badiou, 2009) • “Love’s Bond” (Nozick, 1989) *

Major 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。

Extended Readings & Learning Resources

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Terrence Irwin. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2019.
- Armstrong, John. *Conditions of Love: the Philosophy of Intimacy*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2003.
- Augustine, Saint, Bishop of Hippo. *The City of God*, Books VIII-XVI (selection), trans. Gerald G. Walsh and Grace Monahan. Washington: Catholic University of America Press, 2008.
- Badiou, Alain. *In Praise of Love*. New York: The New Press Palgrave, 2009.
- Bauman, Zygmunt. *Liquid Love: on the Frailty of Human Bonds*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2003.
- Beck, Ulrich. *The Normal Chaos of Love*, trans. Mark Ritter & Jane Wiebel. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1995.
- Bergmann, Martin. *The Anatomy of Loving*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1987.
- Brogaard, Berit. "Friendship Love and Romantic Love". In *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Friendship*, ed. Diane Jeske, pp. 166–178. New York: Routledge, 2022.
- Cleary, Skye. *Existentialism and Romantic Love*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.
- Cleary, Skye, "Simone de Beauvoir on Love." In *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*, ed. Christopher Grau & Aaron Smuts, pp. 414–431. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024.
- Dawkins, Richard. *The Selfish Gene*, 30th anniversary ed. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- De Botton, Alain. *Essays in Love*. Reprinted ed. London: Picador, 2006
- De Rougemont, Denis. *Love in the Western World*, rev. ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983.
- De Sousa, Ronald. *Love: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- Fisher, Helen E.. *Anatomy of Love: a Natural History of Mating, Marriage, and Why We Stray*. New York: Norton.
- Frankfurt, Harry. *The Reasons of Love*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2004.
- Freud, Sigmund. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, vol. 23: An Outline of Psychoanalysis*, ed. James Strachey. London: Hogarth Press, 1964.
- Fromm, Erich. *The Art of Loving*. London: Unwin, 1975.
- Geuss, Raymond. *Changing the Subject: Philosophy from Socrates to Adorno*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017.
- Giddens, Anthony. *The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, Love and Eroticism in Modern Societies*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1992.
- Grau, Christopher; Smuts, Aaron (ed.). *The Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024.
- Grayling, A. C. *Friendship*. New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2013.
- Lee, Haiyan. *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2007.
- Martin, Adrienne M. (ed.). *The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy*. New York: Routledge, 2019.
- Nozick, Robert. *The Examined Life: Philosophical Meditation*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1989.
- Nussbaum, Martha C.. *The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy* (Revised edition). New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Nygren, Anders. *Agape and Eros*, trans. Philip S. Watson. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.
- Plato. *Complete Works*. Edited by John M. Cooper & D.S. Hutchinson. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997.
- Santas, Gerasimos. *Plato and Freud: Two Theories of Love*. Oxford: B. Blackwell, 1988.
- Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Being and Nothingness: An Essay on Phenomenological Ontology*. Translated by Sarah Richmond. New York: Washington Square Press/ Atria, 2018.
- Schopenhauer, Arthur. *The World as Will and Representation*, vol. 2, trans. E.F.J. Payne. New York: Dover, 1966.
- Singer, Irving. *The Nature of Love, Volume 1–3*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009.
- Soble, Alan (ed.). *Eros, Agape, and Philia: Readings in the Philosophy of Love*. New York: Paragon House, 1989.
- Soble, Alan. *The Structure of love*. New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 1990.
- Stendhal. "On Love." In *The Philosophy of (Erotic) Love*. Edited by Robert Solomon. Lawrence, Kan.: University Press of Kansas, p.132-139.
- Wagoner, Robert E.. *The Meanings of Love: An Introduction to Philosophy of Love*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger.
- 李歐梵，《中國現代作家的浪漫一代》，王宏志等譯。北京：新星，2005。
- 郭柏年，《定見之外：生活日常的哲學短篇》。香港：牛津大學，2020。
- 楊聯芬，《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，2016。

〔德〕理察·大衛·普列希特（Precht, Richard David），2021。《愛情的哲學》，闕旭玲譯。臺北：商周，2021。

Contact

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