

**CHV 390 / PHI 390 / GSS 391**  
**The Ethics of Love and Sex**  
Spring 2013  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50pm  
Wallace 004

**PROFESSOR**

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3-3:50pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An examination of the moral principles governing love and sex. Questions to be addressed include: Do we ever owe it to someone to love him or her? Do we owe different things to those we love? Do we owe it to a loved one to believe better of him than our evidence warrants? What is consent, and why is it morally significant? Is sex between consenting adults always permissible, and if not, why not? Are there good reasons for prohibiting prostitution and pornography? Is it always irrational to get married? Should marriage be restricted to opposite-sex couples? Should we do away with marriage as it is currently conceived? Everyone has opinions about these matters. The aim of the course is to subject those opinions to scrutiny.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Readings:** All assigned readings are mandatory and should be completed before the course meeting at which they are to be discussed. Often the readings are short but you may have to read them more than once to understand them and to be able to participate in discussion. Most readings will be available on Blackboard or on the web. You are required to *print out* all readings and *bring them* to the course meetings at which they will be discussed.

**Attendance** is mandatory. If you know you need to miss class, please email me before class. If you unexpectedly have to miss class, please email after class. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from another student what happened and to get copies of notes and handouts. After doing that, if you have questions about what was covered, please do meet with me to discuss them. Some material will only be covered in class, and you will be responsible for that material on your papers and exam.

*Everyone* will be expected to participate in discussion *regularly*.

For each **argument analysis**, a short passage will be distributed. In 2-3 pages, you will explain the argument in the passage. Further instructions will be distributed with the first assignment.

We will have two **in-class debates**. Pro and con teams will be assigned, and you will prepare in advance with your team.

**Late papers** will be penalized one-third of a letter grade for each day late (for example, from A to A-, from A- to B+, and so on). Weekend days count. If you finish a late paper during a weekend, email it to me right away, and turn in a hard copy later. A paper is one day late if it is at all late; two days late if it is more than 24 hours late; three days late if it is more than 48 hours late; etc.

**Extensions:** Extensions will not be granted except under extreme circumstances.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is very serious. If I suspect plagiarism, I will refer the case to the University Committee on Discipline. If plagiarism is found to have occurred, this will result in an “F” on that assignment, and as a result, an “F” in the course (as well as whatever penalties are imposed by the University Committee on Discipline). For an introduction to what constitutes plagiarism, please read the guide “Academic Integrity at Princeton,” which can be found here:

<http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/intro/>

Consult me if you have any further questions.

**Dropping** the Course: If you know you are going to drop the course, please email me right away.

**Auditing** the Course: Undergraduates may not audit the course. Graduate students who want to audit the course need the permission of the instructor. (Graduate students who want to take the course for credit also need the permission of the instructor.)

**Final grades** will be determined as follows:

- 10% Class Participation, debates, and homework
- 5% First Argument Analysis (2-3 pages)
- 5% Second Argument Analysis (2-3 pages)
- 20% First Paper (six pages)
- 30% Second Paper – a presentation plus the paper itself (eight pages)
- 30% Final Exam

An “F” on an argument analysis, on a paper, on the final exam, or for class participation will result in an “F” in the course.

(There is no midterm exam)

## Major Deadlines:

Starting with the second lecture, **homework** is due for each lecture unless there is an argument analysis deadline, paper deadline, or debate on that day. The usual homework assignment is this: raise two objections to the reading. Homework should be \*emailed\* to me by 12midnight, the night before the lecture, with the objections in the main text of the email (not in an attachment).

Tuesday, February 19, 12noon: First argument analysis due (2-3 pages)

Tuesday, February 26, 12noon: Optional first draft of first paper due (6 pages)

Tuesday, March 5, 12noon: First paper due (6 pages)

Thursday, March 14: First Debate

Tuesday, April 2, 12noon: Second argument analysis due (2-3 pages)

Each student will do an in-class **presentation** of the main arguments of her or his **second paper**. These will occur during the last four weeks of classes.

Tuesday, April 23: Second Debate

Tuesday, May 7, 12noon: Optional first draft of second paper due (8 pages)

Tuesday, May 14, 12noon (Dean's Date): Second paper due (8 pages)

May 2013: Final Exam

## CALENDAR

This calendar is approximate. This list of readings is tentative. Readings may be removed, and readings will be added.

Most readings will be available on the course Blackboard site, or can be found at the websites listed with the readings.

For some readings, only part of the document is assigned. In these cases, the syllabus lists which selection should be read.

Updates to the syllabus will occur. Go to Blackboard for the most recent version of the syllabus.

Tuesday, February 5: Introduction to the Course

Thursday, February 7: Arguments & Consent I

- James Pryor, "Philosophical Terms and Methods" available at <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/index.html> (Read all six sections.)
- Alan Wertheimer, *Consent to Sexual Relations*, chs. 5

Tuesday, February 12: Consent II

- Wertheimer, *Consent to Sexual Relations*, chs. 6 and 7
- Schulhofer, "Taking Sexual Autonomy Seriously: Rape Law and Beyond"

Thursday, February 14: Consent III: Coercion

**Guest Lecture by Kim Lane Scheppele (Princeton)**

- Kim Lane Scheppele, “The Reasonable Woman”
- *State v. Rusk* 289 Md.230, A.2d 720 (1981) and notes.
- *State in the Interest of M.T.S.*
- Wertheimer, *Consent to Sexual Relations*, ch. 8

Tuesday, February 19: Consent IV: Deception and Mens Rea

- *People v. Evans* 85 Misc. 2d 1088, 375 N.Y.S. 2d 912 (1975)
- *Boro v. Superior Court*, 163 Cal. App. 3d 1224. 210 Cal. Rptr. 122 (1985)
- Wertheimer, *Consent to Sexual Relations*, ch. 9
- Tom Dougherty, “Sex, Lies, and Consent” *Ethics*

Mens Rea

- *Commonwealth v. Sherry* 368 Mass. 682, 437 N. E. 2d 224 (1982)
- *Commonwealth v. Fischer* 721 A. 2d 111 (1998)
- E. M. Curley, “Excusing Rape”, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 5:4 (1976)
- First Argument Analysis (2-3 pages) due at 12noon

Thursday, February 21: Love I: One thought too many; What are the reasons for love?

- Williams 1981. “Persons, Character, and Morality”, in B. Williams, *Moral Luck*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Harry Frankfurt, “The Reasons of Love”

Tuesday February 26: Love II

- David Velleman, “Love as a Moral Emotion” *Ethics*
- Niko Kolodny, “Love as Valuing a Relationship,” *Philosophical Review* 112:2 (2003): 135–89.
- Harry Frankfurt, “Autonomy, Necessity, and Love”
- Optional first draft of first paper (6 pages) due at 12noon

Thursday February 28: Love III: Is it morally permissible to privilege our loved ones?

- Peter Railton, “Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (1984) 13: 2: 134-171.
- Samuel Scheffler, “Morality and Reasonable Partiality”
- Elinor Mason, “Can an Indirect Consequentialist be a Real Friend?” *Ethics* 1998

Tuesday March 5: Love IV: Must we also privilege our enemies?

- Railton, Scheffler, and Mason *continued*
- First paper (6 pages) due at 12noon

Thursday March 7: Love V: Do we owe our loved ones the benefit of the doubt?

- Simon Keller, "Friendship and Belief." *Philosophical Papers* 2004, 33: 329-51.
- Sarah Stroud, "Epistemic Partiality in Friendship." *Ethics* 2006, 116: 498-524.
- Jennifer Lackey, "Why There is No Epistemic Partiality in Friendship"

Tuesday, March 12: Bestiality: Is bestiality morally wrong? If so, why?

**Guest Lecture by Daniel Wodak (Princeton)**

- Neil Levy, "What is wrong with bestiality?"
- Daniel Wodak, "Eat, Prey, Love"

Thursday, March 14: First Debate

Tuesday, March 26: Sexual Perversion

- Thomas Nagel, "Sexual Perversion"
- Roger Scruton, "Perversion"
- Alan Goldman, "Plain Sex"

Thursday, March 28: Sexual Ethics and the Body

**Guest Lecture by Anne Barnhill (University of Pennsylvania)**

- Anne Barnhill, "Bringing the body back to sexual ethics"

Tuesday, April 2: Prostitution I

- Onora O'Neill "Between Consenting Adults"
- Joel Feinberg, "Legal Paternalism"
- Richard Arneson, "Joel Feinberg and the Justification of Legal Paternalism"
- Second Argument Analysis (2-3 pages) due at 12noon

Thursday, April 4: *No class meeting*

*Each student will do an in-class **presentation** of the main arguments of her or his **second paper**. These will occur during the last four weeks of classes.*

Tuesday, April 9: Prostitution II

- Debra Satz, “Markets in Women’s Sexual Labor”
- Martha Nussbaum, “‘Whether from Reason or Prejudice’: Taking Money for Bodily Services”

Thursday, April 11: Pornography I

- J.L. Austin, selections from How To Do Things With Words
- Catherine MacKinnon, selections from Feminism Unmodified
- Martha Nussbaum, “Objectification”, Chapter 8 of Sex and Social Justice

Tuesday, April 16: Pornography II

- Rae Langton, “Speech Acts and Unspeakable Acts”

Thursday, April 18: Love VI

**Guest Lecture by Adrienne Martin (University of Pennsylvania)**

- Adrienne Martin, “Love and Agency”

Tuesday, April 23: Marriage I: Is it irrational to get married? Is divorce morally wrong?

- Dan Moller, “An Argument Against Marriage”
- Elizabeth Brake, “Is Divorce Promise-Breaking?”
- Second Debate

Thursday, April 25: Marriage II: Should marriage be restricted to opposite-sex couples?

**Guest Lecture by Melissa Moschella (Princeton)**

- Girgus, George, and Anderson, What Is Marriage?

Tuesday, April 30: Marriage III

**Guest Lecture by Gideon Rosen (Princeton)**

- Girgus, George, and Anderson, What Is Marriage? *continued*
- Some responses to What Is Marriage?

Thursday, May 2: Marriage IV: Beyond Marriage

- Elizabeth Brake, “Minimal Marriage” *Ethics*
- Elizabeth Emens, ““Regulatory Fictions: On Marriage and Counter-marriage”