**Philosophy of Sexuality**

**PHM 3020 Online – Spring 2018**

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**Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 12:30-3:30**

*Dates of optional, F2F group sessions—to be announced*

**Course Description**

Philosophy of Sex and Love emerged as a major area of Philosophy in the early 1980s, in part as a response to the Women’s Movement and the shift in gender roles. Yet philosophers since Socrates in the 5th c B.C.E. have reflected logically on the power of sexuality on individual people, its effects on human society and politics, its implications for our understanding of human nature, and the philosophical issues it raises for human life and knowledge.

The issues range from questions of human agency, censorship, the morality of various sexual actions, our identities through as we move through the life cycle, social policies, the mystery of erotic attraction, and even what constitutes a sexual act or relationship.

In this course, we shall focus on such questions, in addition to the moral dimensions of internet sexual contacts, unconventional sexual relationships, pornography, and the relation between sex and love.

**PHI 3637 online is a 3-credit course.**

**PHI 3637 online has no pre-requisites.**

**Books**

Halwani, Soble, Held, and Hoffman (eds.) *Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings.*  7th edition (2018)

Solomon and Higgins (eds.) *Philosophy of (Erotic Love)* (1991)

Euripides, *Hippolytus*

**Although this is an online course, I would like each one of you to meet with me at least once during the term, if you do or can get to the Boca campus. If you cannot meet with me face to face, we can arrange a telephone conversation.**

The best way to contact me is via email. You can send me an email through the Inbox link on the Canvas course homepage or through your non-canvas email. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.

If you have a concern that others might share, rather than personal or confidential, please use the Questions/Concerns forum on the discussion board.

**Course Objectives**

1. To examine the metaphysical, ethical, and political debates in the philosophy of sexuality (CO# 1)
2. To describe what sexuality is—what makes an act or thought sexual (CO# 2)
3. To explore some major philosophers of the Western tradition by examining their philosophical theories about sex and love (CO#3)
4. To describe how technology and economics have each created new philosophical debates and tensions about sexuality (CO# 4)
5. To determine the relationship between human sexuality and human agency (CO#5)
6. To evaluate the relationship between sex and love (CO#6)

7. To explore the nature of erotic love (CO#7)

**Time Commitment**

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen weeks (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort is required for Summer semesters which may be offered over a shortened time frame. E-learning, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

**Course Requirements and Basis for Your Grade**

1. 6 Tests - 60% (True/False) (10 points each)—modules 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9
2. 4 Discussion Board Posting 20% (5 % each)—modules 1, 3, 6, 7

3. 4 Writing assignments 20% (5 % each)—modules 2, 3, 5, 7

4. Orientation Quiz 0%

**Grading Scale: A 93-100, A- 90-92, B+ 87-89, B 83-86, B- 80-82**

**C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72, D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62, below 60 is F**

**Policy on Late Work**

Because this course is online, I will give you a wide berth with due dates. You must, however, complete the assigned work or take the tests within those dates. For example, when I assign a post or a short paper, I will usually give you 5 days to complete it. When I give a test, I will deploy it for 3 days.

It is of the first importance that you work consistently and that you do all assignments and tests on time, because one can easily fall behind in an online course.

**Your Writing Assignments**

Any written assignment must be professional, well organized, grammatically correct, and free of misspellings. All references must be properly cited using the University of Chicago style (see [Academic Integrity](http://www.fau.edu/CTL/AcademicIntegrity.php) and [Plagiarism](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/1/); for help with formatting citations, go to [www.library.fau.edu/depts/ref/instsrv/tutorial/web3.htm](http://www.library.fau.edu/depts/ref/instsrv/tutorial/web3.htm)).

*Please check the assignment directions to verify when and how feedback will be provided.*

Each paper should be at least 500 words. You should put the word count in parentheses at the end of your entry. The best way to do an entry is to write it first as a Word document (or functional equivalent) so that you will be able to craft it carefully and to check spelling, grammar, and word count. If you fall slightly short of 500 words, do not pad your entry.

*Your blogs and your discussion assignments should express your own original thoughts* and make clear references to the texts, when appropriate.

I expect and encourage you to discuss assignments with your classmates and to do so on the indicated Forum on the Discussion Board. Whatever you turn in, however, must be your own work.

**Netiquette**

1. Online Language: Many of us text, email, tweet, and post to Facebook. Online, we have gotten used to relaxing our grammar and spelling, and/or professionalism.  In this class, however, you are adult students and professionals—your communication should convey respect, maturity, and professionalism. Also, please note that online, you do not have the advantage of gesture, facial expression, and more subliminal body language. Thus, other students may interpret sarcasm as insulting or rude.
2. Professional Language: Profanity is *never* acceptable in assignments or in the classroom. Why? As a person who cares enough about education and self-improvement, you should strive to raise your facility with language. Thus, you should aim to avoid clichés, which are so overused that they are empty of meaning. Most instances of profanity fall into this category. I am confident that each of you can be more original in expressing your ideas.
3. Respect for Yourself and Others: Disrespect towards racial, national, religious, or sexual identity is intolerable in an academic or professional setting.

For further information about Netiquette, see [www.fau.edu/irm/about/netiquette.php](http://www.fau.edu/irm/about/netiquette.php)

**Class Schedule**

This course has ten modules, some of which will cover more material than others.

For Module descriptions, including topic and objectives, go to Modules link on the left side of your Canvas Homepage.

**Provost’s Honor Code Policy**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see* [*http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\_Honor\_Code.pdf.*](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Honor_Code.pdf.)

**Policy on Students with Disabilities**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who \_\_require special accommodations due to a disability to execute properly coursework must register with the Student Accessibility Services office (SAS) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie – LA 131 (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all SAS procedures.*

**A Note about Academic integrity:** If you have any questions about whether you need to cite a source or acknowledge credit to someone, feel free to consult me.

\****Keep in mind that the consequences of academic dishonesty are far worse than the consequences of a low grade or missing an assignment.***

**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see  [http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001\_Code\_of\_Academic\_Integrity.pdf](https://exchange.fau.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=sv3UV1tvPka8h1zHPPhg4wk8N3TGStAITC8jA5flXulW9RTYA3JMapjLJeCUyv6t6eHa5wRcQDg.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.fau.edu%2fregulations%2fchapter4%2f4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

**Student Assistance**

1. Please avail yourself of the library. You will have some assignments requiring you to use articles from online journals. To access them, you will have to log on via “Off-Campus Connect (EZ proxy)” and then go to the link “Electronic Journals.” These links can be found at http://www.fau.edu/library/
2. <http://www.fau.edu/class/> connects you to the FAU Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS). The center has various resources for students who may need extra help or tutoring.
3. <http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/> takes you to the University Center for Excellence in Writing, which offers tutoring and helps with writing assignments. You may have an online or face-to face session with a tutor.
4. Feel free to consult with me either in my office or virtually.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: Disability  policy  statement:  In  compliance  with  the  Americans  with  Disabilities  Act  (ADA),

students  who  require  reasonable  accommodations  due  to  a  disability  to  properly  execute

coursework  must  register  with  the  Student Accessibility Services office. For information on registering with SAS, please go to their website at <http://www.fau.edu/sas/>

**Policy on Incompletes:**

As a general rule, incompletes will not be given in this course. However, if I believe that you genuinely merit a grade of ‘I,’ you and I will establish a date by which your work will be completed. I will determine a default grade, which will be your grade if you do not finish the work by that date.

If circumstances beyond the student’s control make it impossible for a student to complete the required work by the end of the term, incompletes will be permitted *only* if a student has completed more than 50% of the exams and assignments in the course and has, so far, a grade of ‘C’ or better. Once you have completed the work, I will grade it and submit the grade change to the registrar. It is your responsibility to make sure that the registrar has posted the grade accordingly.

**Technical Problem Resolution Procedure**

There is always a possibility of technical issues (e.g., lost connection, hardware or software failure). Many of these can be resolved relatively quickly, but if you wait to the last minute before due dates, you increase the chance of a glitch affecting your success. Please plan appropriately. Should a problem occur, it is essential you take immediate action to document the issue so your instructors can verify and take appropriate action regarding a resolution. Please take the following steps should a problem occur:

1. If you can, make a Print Screen of the monitor when the problem occurred. Save the Print Screen as a .jpg file. If you are unfamiliar with creating a Print Screen file, click the appropriate links below.

* For PC users ([video](http://www.fau.edu/cel/PrintScreenTutorialPC.swf) or [script](https://blackboard.fau.edu/bbcswebdav/xid-2718164_1))
* For MAC users

1. Complete a Help Desk ticket at <http://www.fau.edu/helpdesk>. Make sure you complete the form entirely and give a full description of your problem so the Help Desk staff will have the pertinent information in order to assist you properly. This includes:

* Select “Canvas (Student)” for the Ticket Type.
* Input the Course ID.
* In the Summary/Additional Details section, include your operating system, Internet browser, and internet service provider (ISP).
* Attach the Print Screen file, if available.

1. Send a message within to your instructor to notify him/her of the problem. Include all pertinent information of the incident (2b-d above).
2. If you do not have access to a computer, call or SKYPE your instructor with all pertinent information of the incident. If he/she is not available, make sure you leave a detailed message.
3. If you do not hear back from the Help Desk or your instructor within a timely manner (48 hours), it is your responsibility to follow up with the appropriate person until a resolution is obtained.

**Course Schedule—**

**Note: All assignments are posted in the Modules online. Do not post or send any assignment as an attached file.**

**Module 1 January 6-15 Romantic Love and Sexuality**

**Sternberg’s Triangular Theory of Love**

**Film: *The Hedgehog***

(Discussion Board)

**Module 2 January 16-29 The Magic of Love and Attraction**

**Nozick, “Love’s Bond” (in S & H)**

**Thomas, “Reasons for Loving” (S & H)**

(Test on Modules 1& 2, 1 short paper)

**Module 3: January 30-February 12** **Ancient Philosophy of Sexuality: Platonic Love and Sexuality**

Plato, [Symposium (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.](http://www.theosofie.be/A_PDF/Plato_Complete_Works.pdf)

Plato, [Phaedrus (Links to an external site.) Links to an external site.](http://www.theosofie.be/A_PDF/Plato_Complete_Works.pdf)

[Euripides, Hippolytus](https://ryanfb.github.io/loebolus-data/L012.pdf)

Gould, Plato on Sex (pdf.)

Film

(1 short paper, 1 discussion board)

**Module 4: February 13-February 19 Love as an Illusion**

De Sousa, “Love as Theatre” (S & H)

( Test on Modules 3 & 4)

**Module 5: February 20-March 12 The Nature of Objectification**

Nussbaum, “Objectification” (in FAU library, electronic journal collection)

Papadaki, “Sexual Objectification) (Halwani, Soble, Held, and Hoffman)

Video: John Berger, “Ways of seeing Women”

(short paper, test)

**Module 6: March 13-26 Philosophical Voices on Sexual Perversion**

Nagel, “Sexual Perversion”

Gray, “Sex and Sexual Perversion”

Film:

(Discussion Board)

**Module 7: March 27- April 11 The Stigma against Prostitution**

Nussbaum, "Whether from Reason or Prejudice": Taking Money for Bodily Services." (in FAU electronic journal collection. Reference inside module)

Dworkin,  "Dworkin, "Prostitution and Male Supremacy"

<https://repository.law.umich.edu> (link inside module)

Film: *Pretty Woman*

(Test, Discussion Board, and Paper)

**Module 8: April 11-20 Erotic Virtual Relationships and Fidelity**

Jones, C. (2010). “Lying, cheating, and virtual relationships.”*Global Virtue Ethics Review, 6*(1), 3.

(FAU Library Electronic Journal Collection)

"John Portman, "Chatting is not Cheating" (Halwani, Soble, Held, and Hoffman)

(test)

**Module 9: April 21-April 29 Sex as Bodily Gratification**

Goldman, Plain Sex (Halwani, Soble, Held, and Hoffman)

(test)