

# PHIL/CLAS 260 – Ancient Philosophy – Fall 2016

## *Love, Sex, and Friendship in Ancient Thought*

Jeremy Reid – jeremyreid@email.arizona.edu

### Course description

Few things have as profound an impact on our lives and our happiness as love, sex, and friendship. All of us will have to make difficult choices about who our friends should be and how we will treat them, who (if anyone) we will have sex with, and how the people and things we fall in love with will shape our own lives. Ancient Greek societies approached these issues in ways that are sometimes very familiar and sometimes very different from our own. Greek philosophers, in particular, thought about these issues, their ethical implications, and their relation to happiness in rich, interesting, and diverse ways. This course will explore how Ancient Greeks thought about love, sex, and friendship, and the ways in which philosophers responded to their society's attitudes and behaviors with respect to these things.

### Assessment

Participation	5%	Attendance + engagement
Syllabus quiz	5%	Thu Aug 25, 9pm D2L
Reading quizzes	15%	Every Thursday, 9pm on D2L
Mid-term exam	15%	Friday Oct 14, 10am
Final exam	20%	Wednesday Dec 7, 10am
First paper draft (1500 words)	5%	Fri Sep 30, 10am
First paper final (1500 words)	15%	Fri Oct 7, 10am
Second paper (2000 words)	20%	Wed Nov 23, 10am

#### Rules:

- Electronics will be banned in the classroom. You know you're on Facebook; I know you're on Facebook. Everybody is better off if you're not tempted.
- Quizzes will be every Thursday unless otherwise stated. They close at 9pm, so make sure you finish *before* then. If you miss a quiz, you get a 0 for that quiz.
- Papers are to be submitted in .doc format to the Dropbox by 10am on the day that they are due. You may go 10% above or below the word limit. Beyond that, and you will receive a 0 for that paper. (Note: you can download Microsoft Word from the UA website for free.)
- Late papers will receive a 0, so submit them early. There will be no extra credit, so don't ask for it.
- If you cannot attend an exam, you must let me know at least a week before the exam, or you must bring me documentation of whatever emergency arises.

## Paper topics

*Paper one:*

Agathon and Socrates give different accounts of *eros* in the *Symposium*. (I) What is Agathon's account of *eros*? (II) What are Socrates' criticisms of Agathon's account? (III) What is Socrates' own account of *eros*?

(Note: This is a course in the history of thought. What this means is that I want you to show me that you have understood the text and the views *Plato* is presenting in the text, rather than showing me your own opinions on these topics. The only text you should use for this paper is *Plato's Symposium*.)

*Paper two (choose ONE of the following):*

- Plato seems to change his mind in the *Laws* about the value of same-sex relationships. What does he think the value of same-sex relationships is in the *Phaedrus*? What are his arguments against same-sex relationships in the *Laws*? Giving reasons, argue that the position in *one* of the dialogues is better.
- Aristotle thinks that a true friend is another self. What are the two kinds of friendship to which he opposes this? Is this a good account of true friendship? Giving reasons, argue *either* that Aristotle's account is a good one or a bad one.
- Epicureans think that friendship is an important part of the good life, but that romantic love is not. Why do they think that friendship is important? Why do they think that romantic love is not important? How do they think that we should rid ourselves of romantic love? Giving reasons, argue *either* that the Epicurean account is a good one or a bad one.

For this paper, only use texts assigned in this course.

## Academic Integrity

The University has policies against plagiarism within the Student Code of Academic Integrity, and against threatening behavior by students. Any cheating, fabrication, or plagiarism may result in a failing grade for the work concerned or for the course, at my discretion, and I may recommend additional penalties ranging from making the infraction a permanent part of your academic record to expulsion from the University. I really, really hate plagiarism and am astonishingly good at spotting it. So if you are thinking, "Will it be worth it? Will I get away with it?" the answers are, "No," and "No." Plan ahead, stay calm, and think for yourself. All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these policies. Here is the relevant link:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academicintegrity>

## Students with disabilities

Students who are registered with the Disability Resource Center must submit appropriate documentation to the instructor if they are requesting reasonable accommodations. Please let me know as soon as possible if you require extra accommodations.

Here is a link to UA's DRC:

<http://drc.arizona.edu/>

## Calendar and required readings

There will be lectures every Monday and Wednesday, for which you should have *already* done the assigned readings, which will be posted to D2L. Every Friday will be a discussion-like session where we will talk about that week's material and clear up any lingering confusions. You are expected to come to the Friday session with questions. You may have had courses before where you could pass without doing the readings. This is not one of those courses.

Mon Aug 22: Introductions (start reading Euripides' *Hippolytus*)

Wed Aug 24: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 2 (Introduction, Chapter 2, "Forms of Problematization" & Part One, Chapter 1, "Aphrodisia")

Fri Aug 26: NO CLASS – Cornell Aristotle Conference

Mon Aug 29: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 2 (Part One, Chapters 2 & 3, "Chrêsis" & "Enkrateia")

Wed Aug 31: Dover, *Greek Homosexuality* (Chapter II, §1–4, "The Law")

Mon Sep 5: NO CLASS – Labor Day

Wed Sep 7: Nussbaum, "Eros and Ethical Norms: Philosophers respond to a cultural dilemma"

Mon Sep 12: Plato, *Symposium* (From the opening through Eryximachus' speech, 189a)

Wed Sep 14: Plato, *Symposium* (Aristophanes & Agathon's speeches, 189a–198a)

Mon Sep 19: Plato, *Symposium* (Socrates' speech, 198a–212c)

Wed Sep 21: Plato, *Symposium* (Alcibiades' speech, 212c to the end)

Mon Sep 26: Vlastos, "The Individual as Object of Love in Plato's Dialogues"

Wed Sep 28: Nussbaum, "The Speech of Alcibiades"

Friday Sep 30: PAPER DRAFT DUE

Mon Oct 3: Carone, "The Virtues of Platonic Love"

Wed Oct 5: Sheffield, "The *Symposium* and Platonic Ethics: Plato, Vlastos, and a Misguided Debate"

Fri Oct 7: FIRST PAPER RE-WRITE DUE

Mon Oct 10: Nehamas, "'Only in the contemplation of beauty is human life worth living', Plato, *Symposium* 211d"

Wed Oct 12: Review [no extra reading, email me *at least one* question the night before]

Fri Oct 14: MID-TERM EXAM

Mon Oct 17: Plato, *Phaedrus* (introduction and the first speech, up to 234d)

Wed Oct 19: Plato, *Phaedrus* (the palinode, 234d–257c)

Mon Oct 24: Halperin, "Plato and Erotic Reciprocity"

Wed Oct 26: Sheffield, "Beyond Eros: Friendship in the *Phaedrus*"

Mon Oct 31: Plato, excerpts from *Laws*, Book 8

Wed Nov 2: Plato overview [no extra reading]

Mon Nov 7: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 8

Wed Nov 9: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 9

Fri Nov 11: NO CLASS – Veteran's day

Mon Nov 14: Epicurus, *Letter to Menoceus*, *Principal Doctrines* and *Vatican Sayings*

Wed Nov 16: Lucretius, excerpts from *On the Nature of Things*

Mon Nov 21: Cicero, excerpts from *On Moral Ends*, Book 2

Wed Nov 23: PAPER TWO DUE – CLASS OPTIONAL – day before Thanksgiving so basically Thanksgiving (Q&A in class with me if you want).

Fri Nov 25: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

Mon Nov 28: Epictetus, *Handbook*

Wed Nov 30: Gaca, "Early Stoic Eros: The Sexual Ethics of Zeno and Chrysippus and their Evaluation of the Greek Erotic Tradition"

Mon Dec 5: Review [no extra reading, email me *at least one* question the night before]

Wed Dec 7: FINAL EXAM