PHILOSOPHY OF SEX AND LOVE
PHIL 80C
University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Philosophy
Summer 2016

Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 – 4:30 PM in Humanities and Social Sciences 350

Instructor
David Donley
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 12:30-1:00 PM & by appointment
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Course Description
What exactly is “sex”? Can sex be defined in a way that captures all experiences we call “sex”? How is sex connected to cheating? Is marriage ultimately a repressive social institution that should abolished? Or can marriage be legally and socially redefined to be a progressive, inclusive social institution? Does pornography empower or oppress women? Is sadomasochism ethically problematic? Topics for discussion will include sex, marriage, promiscuity and monogamy, pornography, objectification and sexual morality. Through consideration of these topics from multiple philosophical perspectives, this course aims to promote critical reflection with regard to the ethical, political, and social implications of these topics for our contemporary society.

Required Text

The Philosophy of Sex (Sixth Edition). Edited by Nicholas Power, Raja Halwani and Alan Soble. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 2013. Available at The Bay Tree Bookstore. Previous editions are not advised, as they are missing assigned readings that are only found in the 6th edition.

Other required readings will be available as PDFs on Google Classroom.
Course Requirements

1. Two Short Papers (50% of grade; each paper is worth 25% of grade)
   • Minimum 1250 words; Maximum 1750 words.
   • Prompt and writing guidelines can be found on Google Classroom.
   • Due Dates: August 13 and August 27 by 11:59 PM.

2. Participation (25% of grade)
   • Class attendance is mandatory. Given that summer session classes are only five weeks, attendance in every class in necessary to keep with the material in order to be well prepared for the papers and earn the full participation grade. More than one unexcused absence will lead to the loss of the entire participation grade.
   • Active, engaged participation in class discussions and well-developed, thoughtful free writes is necessary to earn full credit for the participation grade.
   • The use of cell phones or other electronic devices for non-DRC related purposes will result in the loss of the entire participation grade as well.

3. Reading Response Journals and Discussion Questions (25% of grade)
   • Each student will complete journal entries for the assigned reading for each class session. Journal entries need to demonstrate critical reflection and engagement with the readings.
   • Along with journal entries, each student must submit discussion questions for each class session that are inspired by or related to the readings for that class session.

Other Course Policies

• Lateness policy: Late assignments and make-up tests are not allowed, except for documented emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify the instructor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements.

• Email policy: Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor. Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate. Because substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or class discussion.
  o When sending an email include “PHIL 80C” in the subject line. As I receive many emails from different offices and organizations on campus on a daily basis, I have created a filter for emails containing “PHIL 80C,” so that I may get to student emails quicker.

• Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course! If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the session. The sooner you let me know your situation, the sooner I can assist you. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For more information please visit UCSC’s Disability Resource Center homepage: http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml.

• Plagiarism policy: You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on
academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask us.

- UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism: http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/bruinsuccess/

## Summer Session Key Dates

August 1 – Drop Deadline  
August 12 – Withdrawal Deadline

## Discussion and Reading Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

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| **Week 1 – What is Sex?** | July 25 | Syllabus; Soble’s “The Analytic Categories of the Philosophy of Sex”; Christina’s “Are We Having Sex Now or What?”  
July 27 | Morgan’s “Sex in the Head”; Portmann’s “Chatting Is Not Cheating”; Recommended movie: *Don Jon* (available on YouTube) |
| **Week 2 – Queer Issues** | Aug 1 | Card’s “Gay Divorce”; Vernallis’ “Bisexual Marriage”  
Aug 3 | Bettcher’s “Trans Women and the Meaning of ‘Woman’”; Overall’s “Trans Persons, Cisgender Persons, and Gender Identities” |
| **Week 3 – Objectification and Consent** | Aug 8 | Mappes’ “Sexual Morality and the Concept of Using Another Person”; Kleppler’s “Sexual Exploitation and The Value of Persons”; West’s “The Harms of Consensual Sex”  
Aug 10 | Cahill’s “Why ‘Derivatization’ Is Better Than ‘Objectification’”; Wertheimer’s “Consent and Sexual Relations” |
| **Week 4 – Casual Sex, Rape and Sadomasochism** | Aug 15 | Halwani’s “On Fucking Around”; Baber’s “How Bad Is Rape?”; Brison’s “Surviving Sexual Violence”  
Aug 17 | Hopkins’ “Rethinking Sadomasochism”; Stear’s “Sadomasochism as Make Believe” |
| **Week 5 – Pornography and Love** | Aug 22 | Mason-Grant’s “Pornography as Embodied Practice”; Power’s “Cheap Thrills: A Call for More Porn”  
Aug 24 | “Episode 133: Erich Fromm on Love as an Art” from the philosophy podcast *The Partially Examined Life*. |