

**HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
*Philosophy 2076G 550: Sex, Love, and Friendship*  
**Course Outline, Winter 2022 ~ J. Epp**

Tues. 11:30-1:30 pm EST in W8  
Thurs. 11:30-12:30 EST in W8  
Zoom until further notice

**Instructor: Jennifer Epp**  
**Office hours: TBA (check OWL)**  
**Email: [jepp6@uwo.ca](mailto:jepp6@uwo.ca)**

**Join Zoom Meeting – Tuesdays**  
<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/95645971989>

**Meeting ID:** 956 4597 1989  
**Passcode:** 552901

**Join Zoom Meeting - Thursdays**  
<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94747833277>

**Meeting ID:** 947 4783 3277  
**Passcode:** 921713

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class investigates the nature and value of friendship, love, and sex using ancient and contemporary philosophical texts. Questions may include: What is love? Is love a feeling or a type of action? Does love involve union with the beloved? Is love always good? Can lovers be friends? What is friendship? Is monogamy morally required? Can polyamory be ethical? Is sex valuable and if so in what way? How are shame and pleasure related to oppression? And what might be learned by thinking about connections between desire and disgust in relation to disability and selfhood?

The class may choose to pursue other questions or topics including but not limited to: familial or parental love, objectification, pornography, marriage, divorce, cybersex, hooking up, on-line dating, BDSM, prostitution, adultery, divorce, pleasure, desire, consent, and so on.

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

- 1) To develop student's abilities to identify, understand, construct, and critique arguments as well as to analyze concepts.
- 2) To introduce students to central debates in the philosophy of sex, love, and friendship. While doing so, students are invited to think about these debates in relation to representations of sex, love, and friendship in art and popular culture, as well as in relation to their own experiences, beliefs, and relationships.
- 3) To improve student's abilities to critique their own opinions.

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

*Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.*

To meet these objectives, students will read philosophical arguments and engage in written exegesis and conceptual analysis. They will write arguments and objections, complete collaborative exercises in interpretation, and engage in class discussion and debate. Doing so will enhance their oral and written communication skills, active listening skills, analytical ability, and potential for creative problem solving.

## CLASS METHODS

Class will include interactive lecture time, as well as time for group exercises, and class discussion. Participation is highly encouraged and students are expected to come to class prepared to ask questions, find answers, and discuss the readings.

## TEXTS

**Required:** Articles provided in the Resources section of OWL or available electronically through UWO Libraries.

## REQUIRMENTS:

Class Participation, 30 hours:	1.5% per set of Tues. + Thurs. classes =	15%
Forum Posts or Journal, 10 weeks of your choice or Apr. 8:	1.5% per set of posts =	15%
Essay, due Mar. 5		25%
Small Group Project, to be scheduled		25%
Take Home Exam		20%

## ASSIGNMENTS:

Submit all written assignments to the **Assignments** section of OWL. Details and evaluation criteria for all assignments will be provided in the **Assignments** section of OWL.

## ANONYMOUS GRADING:

Do not put your name anywhere on your Essays or Exam (including title pages, headers, and document file names). **Include your student number instead.** To avoid bias, I grade those assignments **anonymously.**

## PLAGIARISM:

Work submitted to the Assignments section in OWL is automatically sent to Turnitin.com (a plagiarism checking service). Papers are not graded until they are checked there.

**You may not submit assignments, or portions of assignments, that have been prepared for other courses.** All instances of suspected plagiarism will be taken very seriously. Make sure to **cite all direct quotes, use quotation marks, cite all ideas that you got from somewhere else even if you are not using quotes, and include a bibliography or footnotes of any external resources that you use in anything submitted for this class.**

### **ACCESSIBILITY:**

Your success in this course is important to me and there are many ways to learn. Please discuss your learning needs with me during office hours or at another arranged time. Together we will find ways to make the class accessible for you. We usually think of disability in relation to accessibility but I also accommodate for employment and family responsibilities. Talk to me, to the Student Development Centre, or to your academic counselor as soon as possible if you have any accessibility or accommodation concerns.

I encourage disabled students to use the Services for Students with Disabilities provided by the Student Development Centre including the provision of note-takers, learning strategies assistance, assignment and exam accommodation, and sign-language interpreters. The Accessibility Services Office is located on the fourth floor of the Western Student Services Building, room 4111, visit the Accessibility Services website at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/> for more information. In addition, you can call (519) 661-2147.

### **LATE POLICY:**

We will decide on a late policy together in class. Participate to design this part of the course.

**Reading List**  
See next 3 pages

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Article</b>	<b>Author</b>
Jan. 11 & 13	Friendship	Introduction “Ancient Greek Views: Aristotle”	Trevas et al.
Jan. 18 & 20	Friendship	Guest presentation – Consent, an introduction “Real character-friends: Aristotelian friendship, living together, and technology”	Erdanya Anderson  Michael T. McFall
Jan. 25 & 27	Friendship	“Why Lovers Can’t Be Friends”	James Conlon
Feb. 1 & 3	Love	“Ancient Greek Views: Plato”	Trevas et al.
Feb. 8 & 10	Love	“Love and Virtue”	Raja Halwani
Feb. 15 & 17	Love	“The Dark Side of Love”	Rolf M. Johnson

<p>Mar. 1 &amp; 3</p> <p>Essay due Mar. 5</p>	<p>The Ethics and Politics of Love and Sex:</p>	<p><b>"Ethical Polyamory, Responsibility, and Significant Otherness"</b>  <a href="https://alexisshotwell.com/2019/11/08/ethical-polyamory-responsibility-and-significant-otherness/">https://alexisshotwell.com/2019/11/08/ethical-polyamory-responsibility-and-significant-otherness/</a></p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>"What Is Polyamory?"  <a href="https://medium.com/polyamory-today/what-is-polyamory-34ec722bff66">https://medium.com/polyamory-today/what-is-polyamory-34ec722bff66</a></p> <p>"Polyamory Definitions"  <a href="https://findpoly.com/blog/polyamory-definitions/">https://findpoly.com/blog/polyamory-definitions/</a></p> <p>"Just Friends, Friends and Lovers, or ..."  &amp;  Excerpts: "Monogamy's Law" pg. 320-330</p>	<p>Alexis Shotwell</p> <p>Rachel Hope</p> <p>Find Poly</p> <p>Caroline J. Simon</p> <p>Elizabeth Emens</p>
<p>Mar. 8 &amp; 10</p>	<p>The Ethics and Politics of Love and Sex:</p>	<p>"Making Love and Relations Beyond Settler Sexuality"  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfdo2ujRUv8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfdo2ujRUv8</a>  (start at min. 6:30)</p>	<p>Kim Tallbear</p>
<p>Mar. 15 &amp; 17</p>	<p>The Ethics and Politics of Love and Sex</p>	<p>"Values: Living By A Love Ethic"</p>	<p>bell hooks</p>
<p>Mar. 22 &amp; 24</p>	<p>Sex</p>	<p>"Carnal Wisdom and Sexual Virtue"</p>	<p>Neera K Badhwar</p>

<p>Mar. 29 &amp; 31</p>	<p>Sex</p>	<p><b>Class Choice. Two of:</b></p> <p>“Desire and Disgust”</p> <p>“Sex Talks”</p> <p>“Aggressive Hook Ups”</p> <p>“A Horny Dilemma”  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/msw4d8yd">https://tinyurl.com/msw4d8yd</a></p> <p>“The Ontology of Consent: A reply to Alexander”</p> <p>Anything from: <i>College Sex: Philosophy for Everyone – Philosophy With Benefits</i>  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/msw4d8yd">https://tinyurl.com/msw4d8yd</a></p>	<p>Alison Kafer</p> <p>Rebecca Kukla</p> <p>James Rocha</p> <p>Andrew Kania</p> <p>Richard Healey</p> <p>Eds. Michael Bruce, Robert Stewart</p>
<p>Apr. 5 &amp; 7</p> <p><b>Journal due Apr. 8</b></p>	<p>Sex</p>	<p><b>Class Choice. See above.</b></p>	<p>TBA</p>
<p>Apr. 10-30</p>	<p>Exam Period</p>	<p>Exam Review Session</p>	<p>TBA</p>

## **Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022**

### **Mandatory Use of Masks in Classrooms**

Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per Huron policy and public health directives. Students are now permitted to drink water in class by lifting and replacing the mask each time a drink is taken. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Students unwilling to wear a mask as stipulated by Huron policy and public health directives will be referred to the Dean's Office, and such actions will be considered a violation of the Huron Student Code of Conduct.

### **Pandemic Contingency**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, typically using a combination of synchronous instruction (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) and asynchronous material (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor. In the unlikely event that changes to the grading scheme are necessary, these changes will be clearly communicated as soon as possible.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

### **Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information**

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/attendance.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf).

### **Statement on Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf). The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf).

### **Turnitin.com**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

### **Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)**

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

### **Academic Consideration for Missed Work**

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf) are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has



already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

### **Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence**

#### **(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may **not** collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

#### **(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca).**

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca) for any further questions or information.

### **Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at [huronsss@uwo.ca](mailto:huronsss@uwo.ca). An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at:  
<https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here:  
<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>  
Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>  
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>  
Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>  
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>  
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

### **Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western**

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: [huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca)  
Community Safety Office: [safety@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:safety@huron.uwo.ca)  
Chaplaincy: [gthorne@huron.uwo.ca](mailto:gthorne@huron.uwo.ca)

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.