

Department of Philosophy: Fall Session 2014 **Revised Oct 6**
PHL243H1F PHILOSOPHY OF SEXUALITY
WED 6-9pm, MB128

Instructor: Ronald de Sousa (sousa@chass.utoronto.ca):

Office Hour: Wed. 3-5pm (JHB #424); or by appointment.

TA's: [office hours TBA as we go.]

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Course Topics and Objectives

"Sex" denotes three different areas: gender-sex, erotic sex, and the ethics/politics of sexuality. The course will attend roughly equally to all three. The first defines questions about sexual dimorphism (or polymorphism) at the biological level (female, male, hermaphrodite) and at the cultural level (feminine, masculine, transvestite, trans man, trans woman, intersex, etc....) and the complicated relations between the two (e.g. do transsexuals change sex or do they change gender?) The second requires that we think about the nature of sexual desire and its objects. What is sexual desire, and what, if anything, is a perversion? What is pornography and its significance for understanding sexuality? The third domain picks up the evaluative controversies raised by political and moral attitudes towards the issues of the first two: sexual (in)equality; prostitution; juvenile & inter-generational sex; gay rights and identity, the question of censorship of porn, etc. We'll have time only for a sampling.

REQUIRED READINGS will be from the following:

(PS) : N. Power, A. Soble, & R. Halwani, eds. *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings* 6th ed (2012). [NB: p. numbers refer to this edition. Some papers are **not** in 5th ed.]

(W): Required texts, accessible on or via Blackboard.

These two sources contain all the core reading for which you will be responsible in your essays and exams. Further readings may be recommended (**REC**) as we go. We will also view a few movies, which may be referred to in your final essay.

In preparing summaries and essays, pay close attention to the **WRITING GUIDES** in BB. Other resources are listed there including the Philosophy Department **ESSAY CLINIC**

Evaluation: Two (600-word) critical reading summaries **DUE BEFORE CLASS: No late submissions** accepted, but replacements allowed if justified. (15% each =**30%** total); 1 (2500-3000 word) analytical essay (**30%**); Final Exam (**40%**).

NOTE: All work will be submitted electronically to your TA (Josh Brandt if your last name begins with A-L, Mark Fortney otherwise) & to Blackboard, & CC to sousa@chass.utoronto.ca.

In all written work, remember that PLAGIARISM is a serious academic offense. If you are unclear about it, carefully read "HOW NOT TO PLAGIARIZE" in the "SYLLABUS" folder in which the present document as well as "GUIDES AND GENERAL WRITING HELP" reside.

The following applies to the FINAL ESSAY, but NOT the Summaries:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

DETAILED READINGS AND ASSIGNMENT LIST: Assigned texts must be read BEFORE the class in any given week. "REC" readings are not required unless you are writing an essay on that issue.

Sept 10 Introduction: What is Philosophy? What is Philosophy of Sex? No readings.

Sept 17 What is Sex? Some Classical Theories:

READ: Plato's *Symposium*, esp. from "Aristophanes professed to open another vein of discourse" to "Agathon and Socrates are the only ones left", and from "Socrates then proceeded as follows" to the end (W). Greta Christina, "Are we having sex now or what?" (PS 25-31, also W); REC: de Sousa & Morgan: "Philosophy, Sex and Feminism" (W).

Sept 24. The "Natural Law" theory of sex. : **MOVIE: *Kinsey***

READ: Aquinas (W); REC: John Finnis on Aquinas's moral and political philosophy in <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2006/entries/aquinas-moral-political/> : Intro; §2.3-2.5, & §3.4.2.

First Summary Due: the argument of Aquinas

Oct 1 Some Biological Background:

READ: Maynard Smith & Szathmáry "The Origin of sex" (W); Roughgarden passage on "Sex and Diversity" (W)

Oct 8 Dimorphism /Polymorphism in Sex and Gender:

READ Fausto-Sterling 1993, "The five sexes revisited" (W); Overall (PS 251-270); (REC: Bettcher (PS))

Oct 15 Erotic Sex: What is it? When is it good? Normal? Perverse?

READ: T. Nagel (PS 33-46) ; A. Goldman (PS 57-76);

Oct 22 More on Erotic Sex: Morgan, "Sex in the Head" (PS 101-122)

Second Critical Summary due: Morgan, "Sex in the Head" **MOVIE: *Shortbus***

PAPER TOPICS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TODAY

Oct 29 Sex and morality

READ: Kant "Duties towards the body" (W) ; REC Soble "Jacking off again" (PS)

Nov 5 Sex and love

READ: Vannoy (W); de Sousa "Love as Theatre" (W) (REC: Giles (W))

[For anyone to whom permission has been granted, a Make-up Critical Summary will be accepted today on the excerpt from *Sex Without Love*]

Nov 12 "Objectification" and "Derivatization" : **MOVIE: *Kids***

READ: Cahill (PS335-358) ; Halwani (PS 441-460); (REC: Soble, "Sexual Use" (PS 301-334))

Nov 19 Sexual Choices: Homosexuality

READ Levin, (W); Kurtz "Beyond Gay Marriage...." (PS6 143-160)

Nov 26 Criminalization of sex Benatar (PS 395-406); Pineau (PS 461-484) Hannon: "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" (W). REC: Wertheimer on "Consent and Sexual Relations" in PS

Dec 3 Sex work and Pornography. READ Nussbaum (PS)

FINAL ESSAY DUE Wednesday Dec 10 before midnight. LATENESS PENALTY: 5 POINTS (out of 100) PER CALENDAR DAY.