PHI 3012:  
PHILOSOPHY OF SEX & LOVE

Professor:   Dr. Jason Waller  
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Lecture:   T 7:00 – 9:30  
Room:     Coleman Hall 2721  
Office Hours:  T 4:00 – 7:00; W 12:00 – 2:00

Required Tests

• Raja Halwani, *Philosophy of Love, Sex, and Marriage: An Introduction.*  
• Alan Sobel et al. *The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings.*

Course Description

This course examines the meaning and nature of sex and love. The goal is to help students reflect on how to live out their own sexuality while gaining empathy for other views. We will examine contemporary debates concerning the nature of romantic love, sexual fantasies, casual sex, consent theory, the purpose(s) of sex, what it means to “use” someone, masturbation, objectification, sadomasochism, pornography, homosexuality, marriage, and many other topics. WI

Course Objectives

• Develop one’s own views on the meaning and nature of human sexuality.  
• Develop sympathy for other views on sexuality.  
• Develop more sophisticated moral reasoning related to sexuality.  
• Develop critical thinking skills.  
• Develop clear writings skills.

Course Requirements

| Attendance Quizzes / Participation | 25% of Final Grade |
| Midterm Take-Home Exam | 25% of Final Grade |
| Final Take-Home Exam | 25% of Final Grade |
| Final Paper | 25% of Final Grade |

Attendance Quizzes / Participation

I hope that we can make this course a discussion based one. Thus, attending class is important (even if you have not had time to do all of the reading). The exam questions will be based on class discussions, so not attending class will make it hard to do well on
the exams. Thus, there will be regular attendance quizzes in this class. To get full points on these quizzes you just need to show up and participate.

Exams

There will be two exams in this class. Both exams will be essay take-home essay exams based on the readings and class discussions.

Final Paper

25% of your grade will be a final paper. This paper is to be 5-7 pages long and concern some topic related to the philosophy of sex and love. This can be a research paper or an argumentative paper. Please talk to me at some point during the semester about what you want to write about.

Contacting the Professor

You have three ways of contacting me. First, you can stop by my office hours. Second, you can email me. Third, you can send me a text. Here are some general guidelines regarding contacting me:

If you cannot make it to class for some reason and want to be excused, please send me an email. Do not text.

If there is some kind of emergency that I need to know about, you have a quick question, or you wish to set up an appointment please feel free to text or email.

Please note that if the question you ask is answered in this syllabus, then I will likely not respond to you. So please check the syllabus before you contact me.

Contacting You

Throughout the semester I will send you emails in case a class needs to be canceled for some reason or if the reading assignment changes. Please keep on top of these emails.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully
participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696 or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

No Class On:

March 14 (Spring Break)
**Reading Assignments**

This reading schedule is subject to change—this is only an outline. I may add things, rearrange, or take things out. There are two texts plus online readings.

**Week 1: Philosophy of Sex and Love?**

- Analytical Categories in the Philosophy of Sex (Essay 1)
- “Why Are So Many Millennials Having Zero Sex?” (Online)
- “’Hot’ Sex and Young Girls” (Online)

**Week 2: The Nature of Love I**

- Halwani, Chs. 1-2

**Week 3: The Nature of Love II**

- Halwani, Chs. 2-3

**Week 4: The Nature of Sex I**

- “Are We Having Sex Now or What?” (Essay 2)
- “Plain Sex” (Essay 5)
- Halwani, Ch. 5 (Skim)

**Week 5: The Nature of Sex II**

- “Sexual Perversion” (Essay 3)
- “Sex in the Head” (Essay 7)

**Week 6: Sexual Ethics —A Paradox?**

- “Two Views of Sexual Ethics” (Essay 22)
- “Sexual Morality and the Concept of Using Another Person” (Essay 16)

**Week 7: Sexual Objectification**

- “Sexual Exploitation and the Value of Persons” (Essay 17)
- “Sexual Use” (Essay 18)

**Week 8: Christian Sexual Ethics**

- Pruss on Sexual Ethics (Online)
- *Humanae Vitae* (Online)
Week 9: Masturbation

- “On Jacking Off, Yet Again” (Essay 6)
- Kant on Masturbation (Online)

Week 10: Pornography

- “Pornography as Embodied Practice” (Essay 28)
- “Cheap Thrills: A Call for More Pornography” (Essay 29)

Week 11: Perversion, Sexual Orientation, and Fantasies

- Halwani, Ch. 8
- Celibate Pedophiles (Online)
- “What is a Sexual Orientation?” (Essay 12)

Week 12: Casual Sex

- “Consent and Sexual Relations” (Essay 20)
- “The Harms of Consensual Sex” (Essay 21)
- “On Fucking Around” (Essay 24)

Week 13: Marriage

- Halwani, Ch. 9-10

Week 14: Transgender Issues

- “Trans Woman and the Meaning of ‘Woman’” (Essay 14)
- “Trans Persons, Cisgender Persons, and Gender Identities” (Essay 15)

Week 15: Exam and Paper Meetings