

COURSE DETAIL

LOVE AND SEX

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Free University of Berlin

Program(s)

Free University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Women's & Gender Studies Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

115

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

LOVE AND SEX

UCEAP Transcript Title

LOVE AND SEX

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

Philosophers, and non-philosophers alike, have fought over the meanings, values and consequences of love and sexual desire from philosophy's very beginning. The seminar addresses some of these controversial issues, their aporias and paradoxes, and encourages students to find their own interpretations and answers. We will discuss questions such as: Are there different forms of love? What are the differences, if any, between e.g. love and friendship? Is sex or sexual desire essential for love? Do we lose or find ourselves in love relationships? How do we change when we fall in love? Are we free or unfree when we are in a love relationship? How do power and love relate? How much aggressivity, hate and mastery are entailed in love bonds? The seminar will address these (and further) questions by concentrating on four models of love: (1) Love as union or fusion; (2) Love as knowledge; (3) Love as work on oneself; (4) Love as struggle. As conceptual basis for these models, two texts in particular will be read, analysed and discussed, an ancient one, Plato's Symposium, and a modern one, which however draws upon ancient myths, Heinrich von Kleist's Penthesilea. The two texts will be studied in light of modern and contemporary insights and issues, as for example those raised by Hegel (and especially his master/slave figure), psychoanalysis, feminism, polyamory theory, and others. There will be space for students to (partially) participate in the articulation of the programme, and for practicing philosophy in some more 'creative' ways than usual (by for example staging philosophical theatrical scenes).

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

16050

Host Institution Course Title

LOVE AND SEX

Host Institution Campus

Free University of Berlin

Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Philosophie

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