

**PHIL 2 – Contemporary Moral Issues: *Love, Sex, and Marriage***  
**University of California, Riverside – Summer 2005**

Lecture: MTWR 9:40am–11:10am, SPR 2365

Discussion Sections: R 11:10am–12:00pm, SPR 2365 and 2364

**Instructor:** John McAteer  
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Office Hours: MTW, right after class in HMNSS 3213.

**Texts**

1. Soble, Alan, ed. *Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.
2. Soble, Alan. *The Philosophy of Sex and Love*
3. Choose one of the following:
  - Countryman, William L. *Dirt, Greed, and Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today*
  - Graff, E.J. *What is Marriage For?: The Strange Social History of Our Most Intimate Institution*
  - Perry, Michael J. *Under God? Religious Faith and Liberal Democracy*

**Assignments**

1. Attendance to both lecture and discussion sections is required. Students get one free unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence thereafter will result in the loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on the student's final course grade. (For example, if you earn a B+ in the class, but you miss two classes, then you will receive a B. If you miss three classes, then a B-, four then a C+, etc.)
2. Students must complete all assigned readings by the dates listed on the schedule below.
3. Each Thursday, there will be a short quiz over the material from both the readings and the lectures. Missed quizzes cannot be made-up without a doctor's excuse. These quizzes are worth 50% of the final course grade (10% each).
4. Students choose one of three optional books (see "Texts" #3 above) as the subject of a 8-10 page term paper. Students must sign up for their chosen book at the beginning of the course (i.e., before the end of the first week) and may not change books without permission from the instructor. No more than half the class may choose each book. The chosen book must be read *in its entirety*. (There is no assigned reading for Thursdays, so students will have plenty of time from Wednesday to Friday each week to read this book.) The term paper should consist of four parts, each about 2 pages long: (1) a summary of the *overall argument* of the entire book; note that all three optional books contain multiple arguments, but each is trying to convince its reader of one overall point; (2) a statement of the student's own *criticism* of one aspect of the book's argument; note that it will not be possible in a short paper to criticize the overall argument, and so students should focus on criticizing one specific part of that argument; (3) an explanation of a possible *response* that the author of the book could give to the student's criticism; (4) a discussion of why the student does or does not *agree* with the author's argument in light of parts 2 and 3. Papers will be graded on the accuracy and completeness of the summary, the depth of criticism, and fairness to the author demonstrated by the response section. **Papers are due at the beginning of class on August 25, 2005.** No late papers will be accepted without a doctor's excuse. The term paper is worth 50% of the final course grade.

## Schedule

- 7/25 Ethics, Politics, and Religion (No reading)  
7/26 The Bible and Sexual Ethics (Read Handout)  
7/27 Relativism (No reading)  
7/28 Movie: *The Decalogue*: Episode VI, “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery”
- 8/1 Love and Ethics (Read Soble Intro and Ch 5-6)  
8/2 Natural and Unnatural Sex (Read Soble, Nagel, and Solomon, in *Phil of Sex* Intro and Ch 2-4)  
8/3 Natural and Unnatural Sex, cont. (Read Moulton, Goldman and Gray in *Phil of Sex* Ch 4-6)  
8/4 Movie: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*: Episodes 2.13 & 2.14, “Surprise” and “Innocence”
- 8/8 Natural and Unnatural Sex, cont. (Read Soble, Ch. 1-2)  
8/9 Objectification (Read Nussbaum in *Phil of Sex* Ch 26)  
8/10 Kant on Sex (Read Kant, Mappes, and Soble in *Phil of Sex* Ch 15-17)  
8/11 Movie: *Alfie*
- 8/15 Libertarian Sexual ethics (Read Singer and Primoratz in *Phil of Sex* Ch 18 and 29)  
8/16 Consent (Read West, Soble, and Wertheimer in *Phil of Sex* Ch 22-24)  
8/17 Sex and Liberty (Read Soble, Ch. 3-4)  
8/18 Movie: *Trembling Before G-d*
- 8/22 Homosexuality (Read Finnis/Nussbaum, Levin, Corvino in *Phil of Sex* Ch 8-9, 11)  
8/23 Marriage (Read Soble 7-8)  
8/24 Same-Sex Marriage (Read Calhoun in *Phil of Sex* Ch 12)  
8/25 Movie: *Adam’s Rib*
- 8/26 No final exam!

**SINFEST**

