

<b>Course Title</b>	: Love and Sexuality
<b>Course Code</b>	: CLB9025
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	: Any
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	: 3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	: Sectional approach
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	: 3 hours per week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	: CLB – Cluster Humanities and Arts
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	: N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	: N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

What is love? Should we love our family more than strangers? What is romantic love and how is it related to sexuality? This course discusses several approaches to love and sexuality from different traditions and times. Among the main issues discussed, are: what is the essence of love, how can it be best understood, are some people more deserving of love than others, how will future developments of technology and society might affect our understanding of love?

### **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students who successfully engage with the course material will be able to:

1. demonstrate a critical appreciation regarding the contemporary public discourse on love;
2. demonstrate an active understanding of different theories of what love is;
3. be able to employ these theories and analyze real-life issues related to love;
4. demonstrate an appreciation for the variety and diversity of the phenomena that are collectively labeled “love.”

### **Indicative Content**

1. Plato’s Symposium: The characteristics of erotic love.
2. Christian, parental and fraternal love.
3. Aristotle: Friendship, love and virtue.
4. The Middle Ages: Romantic love, courtly love, mystical experience, and love as rebellion.
5. Love and morality.
6. Love and friendship in the Eastern philosophical traditions.
7. The concepts of love: Eros, Philia, (Nomos,) Storge, Caritas, Agape.
8. Is love an emotion?
9. The psychology and sociology of love. Sigmund Freud and Erich Fromm.
10. Love, marriage, sexuality and evolution.
11. Technology, human enhancement, and love.

### **Teaching Method**

Sectional approach.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be required to take both a mid-term and a final examination. Students who successfully engage with the course material will be able to demonstrate a general

- understanding of all of the theories of love that are covered (#2). As such, they must first be able to identify and briefly restate these theories (#2). In addition, they must be able to identify and analyze particular issues and social phenomena related to love (#1, #3). Finally, students who have mastered the course material should be able to discuss arguments in favour of and against the theories and positions under consideration (#1, #3, #4).
2. The presentations and written assignments submitted reflect the students' ability to explain the theories discussed, as well as to apply them to everyday social phenomena related to love (movies, books, common opinions and preconceptions). (#1, #3, #4)
  3. Particularly the student presentation will require the student to apply the theories, making active use of them, and explaining them to the class. This ensures outcome #2.
  4. Active attendance and participation in class discussions, will confront students with the diversity of opinions in class (#4) and also make possible the evaluation of their understanding of the theories by applying them to particular cases during discussions (#3).

### **Assessment**

- In-class participation: 10%
- Mid-term examination: 10%
- Student presentation: 20%
- Term paper: 30%
- Final examination: 30%

### **Required Readings (extracts)**

Singer, Irving (1984). *The Nature of Love* (3 volumes: 1. Plato to Luther; 2. Courtly and Romantic; 3. The Modern World)

Soble, Alan (2008). *The Philosophy of Sex and Love. An Introduction*. (2nd ed.).

### **Supplementary Readings**

Brown, Robert (1987). *Analyzing Love*. Cambridge University Press.

Fisher, H. (1960). *The Anatomy of Love*. New York: Dell.

Fromm, Erich (1956). *The Art of Loving*.

Soble, Alan (1990). *The Structure of Love*.

Soble, Alan (1989). *Eros, Agape, and Philia. Readings in the Philosophy of Love*.

Wagoner, Robert E. (1997). *The Meanings of Love: An Introduction to Philosophy of Love*.

Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers.