

S t u d y O f L O V E

Northwest Nazarene University Spring, 2006
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Love

Theological and Philosophical Perspectives

TH/PL 394 Course Objective

The objective of the course is to encourage students to engage in an advanced study of love from theological and philosophical perspectives. Particular reference will be made to classical sources of love, such as Plato, Aristotle, Jesus, St. Paul, Augustine, and John Wesley. Contemporary love scholars such as Anders Nygren, Edward Collins Vacek, Stephen Post, Daniel Day Williams, and Pitirim Sorokin will also be examined.

Institutional Outcomes

The student will progress toward Christ-like character as love is integrated into the student's living. The reflective paper, "My Philosophy of Love," will facilitate the integrative process required for the development of Christ-like character.

The student will creatively engage the ideas of an established scholar of love by reviewing a leading book.

The student will improve academically by coming to understand better conceptions of love in theology and philosophy. The exam will gauge how well students conceptualize love.

General Education Goals

Students will develop a worldview informed by Christian perspectives that provides the context for further studies in the liberal arts. Such a viewpoint requires that students gain:

- A. An understanding of the advancement of civilization.
- B. An understanding of the human condition.
- C. An understanding of the content and message of the Bible.
- D. An understanding of the major doctrines of the Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective.
- E. A philosophy of life that integrates one's Christian faith with one's understanding of the world.

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Required Texts (Student should bring texts and photocopied essays to class for discussion)

(N) Norton, David L. and Mary F. Kille. *Philosophies of Love*. Rowman and Littlefield, 1983.

(O) Oord, Thomas Jay. *Science of Love: The Wisdom of Well-Being*. Templeton, 2004.

(P) Post, Stephen G. *Unlimited Love: Altruism, Compassion, and Service*. Templeton, 2003.

Additional Reading

(MZ) Manning, Christel and Phil Zuckerman. "Christianity," in *Sex and Religion*. Wadworth.

(N) Nygren, Anders. *Agape and Eros*.

(O) Oord, Thomas Jay. "The Love Racket: Defining Love and Agape for the Love and Science Research Program," *Zygon* (Dec. 2005).

(V) Vacek, Edward Collins. *Love, Human and Divine*. Georgetown University Press.

Grading % of total grade:

40	Final Exam
15	"My Philosophy of Love" Paper
15	Journal
15	Book Review
15	Class attendance, including five evening lectures, and discussion (-7 for each night missed)

Exam

The final exam will address material found in readings, class lectures, and discussions.

"My Philosophy of Love" Paper

Each student will write a 12-14-page paper on his or her own philosophy of love. This paper should reveal how the student has engaged with the ideas proposed by the texts, the professor, and peers. Students should use terminology they picked up from readings or discussion. Research for this paper is desired but not required. Documentation of sources, if used, is necessary. While students are encouraged to quote or refer to scripture or other sources, placing block quotes – without reflection or commentary – will be graded harshly. The professor will provide a document containing some questions that the student should address when writing their "My Philosophy of Love" paper. Students should plan to address subjects other than covered by the questions. Students should also be sure to follow the guidelines listed on the Checklist and Instructions for Papers. Papers will be primarily graded on their coherence and rationale, their understanding and analysis of the issues of love, their readability and grammar, their persuasiveness, their creativity, and if they followed the Checklist and Instructions for Papers.

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Journal

Students must write their thoughts in a spiral bound notebook journal. Students must make at least three substantive entries (200+ words) each week of the class, but students are encouraged to write more entries. These entries should contain their reflection love in general, readings, and at least in one entry each week should include a reflection on love in relation to the class movie and/or lecture of the week. Journals should be brought to class so that the student can make notes from the movie for later journal entries.

Class Attendance and Discussion

Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Each absence will result in a 7% grade reduction in the student's overall grade. Students who rarely or never participate verbally in class discussions will be penalized, and students who talk too much will be asked to refrain themselves appropriately so that others may contribute.

Plagiarism and Inclusive Language

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Check handbook statement for penalties. Evidence that the paper or segments of it have been copied verbatim from an internet source or former student results in failure from course. The instructor will conscientiously attempt to use inclusive language, images, and metaphors in speaking and writing. Students are expected to do the same.

Late Policy and Illness

Students must turn in papers and projects by the end of class on the date they are due. Papers sent as email attachments will not be accepted. Late papers will be accepted for reduced credit (dropped at least one letter grade) up until two days after their due date (see day-by-day schedule). Sickness almost never constitutes a good reason for missing an assignment; hospitalization or doctor's visits usually do (accompanied with a physician's [not a nurse's] note). Quizzes may not be taken late.

Movie Disclaimer

Some movies watched in class have been given a "Restricted" (R) rating. Students who are not comfortable watching a movie with this classification should notify the professor during the first weeks of the course so that alternative movies can be required as replacements.

Book Review

Students will review a book from the list below. Reviews should be 8-10 pages long, and the first 6-8 pages should describe the book's main themes and content. The final pages should include the student's evaluation and critique. Students must choose to review a book that they have not read previously. During the second class session, students will choose a book to review from the following list:

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Primarily Theological

- Allen, Diogenes. *The Path of Perfect Love*. Cambridge: Cowley, 1992.
- Brady, Bernard. *Christian Love*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2003.
- Brummer, Vincent. *The Model of Love: A Study in Philosophical Theology*. Cambridge, 1993.
- Carmichael, Liz. *Friendship: Interpreting Christian Love*. London: T&T Clark, 2004.
- Furnish, Victor Paul. *The Love Command in the New Testament*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1972.
- Gilman, E. James. *Fidelity of Heart: An Ethic of Christian Virtue*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Grant, Colin. *Altruism & Christian Ethics*. Cambridge: University Press, 2001.
- Jackson, Timothy. *The Priority of Love: Christian Charity and Social Justice*. Princeton, 2003.
- McCann, Dennis and Patrick Miller, eds. *In Search of the Common Good*. New York: T&T Clark, 2005.
- Meilaender, Gilbert. *Friendship: A Study in Theological Ethics*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 1981.
- Neusner, Jacob and Bruce Chilton, eds. *Altruism in World Religions*. Georgetown University Press, 2005.
- Newlands, George. *Theology of the Love of God*. Atlanta: John Knox, 1980.
- Pittenger, Norman. *The Lure of Divine Love: Christianity in Process Perspective*. New York: Pilgrim, 1979.
- Pohl, Christine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Eerdmans, 1999.
- Sakenfeld, Katharine Doob. *Faithfulness in Action: Loyalty in Biblical Perspective*. Fortress, 1985.
- Spohn, William C. *Go and Do Likewise: Jesus and Ethics*. New York: Continuum, 2000.
- Taylor, Mark Lloyd. *God is Love: A Study in the Theology of Karl Rahner*. Atlanta: Scholar's, 1986.
- Tillich, Paul. *Love, Power, and Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1963.
- Vacek, Edward Collins. *Love, Human and Divine: The Heart of Christian Ethics*. Georgetown, 1993.
- Vanstone, W. H. *The Risk of Love*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978.
- Weaver, Darlene. *Self Love and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Will, James E. *The Universal God: Justice, Love, and Peace in the Global Village*. John Knox, 1994.
- Williams, Daniel Day. *The Spirit and the Forms of Love*. New York: Harper and Row, 1968.
- Wynkoop, Mildred Bangs. *A Theology of Love: The Dynamic of Wesleyanism*. Beacon Hill Press, 1972.

Primarily Philosophical and/or Scientific

- Adams, Robert Merrihew. *Finite and Infinite Goods*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Armstrong, John. *Conditions of Love: The Philosophy of Intimacy*. Norton, 200?.
- Batson, Daniel. *The Altruism Question: Toward a Social-Psychological Answer*. Erlbaum, 1991.
- Bergman, Martin. *The Anatomy of Loving: The Story of Man's Quest to Know What Love Is*. New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1987.
- Blum, Deborah. *Love at Good Park: Harry Harlow and the Science of Affection*. Perseus, 2002.
- Colby, Anne and William Damon. *Some Do Care: Lives of Moral Commitment*. Free Press, 1992.
- Fromm, Erich. *The Art of Loving*. New York: Harper and Row, 1956.
- Lewis, Thomas, Fari Amini, and Richard Lannon. *A General Theory of Love*. New York: Random, 2000.
- Martin, Mike W. *Love's Virtues*. Lawrence, Kans.: University Press of Kansas, 1996.
- Monroe, Kristen. *The Heart of Altruism: Perceptions of a Common Humanity*. Princeton, 1996.
- Murphy, Nancey and George F. R. Ellis. *On the Moral Nature of the Universe: Theology, Cosmology, and Ethics*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996.
- Oliner, Samuel and Pearl. *The Altruistic Personality: Rescuers of Jews in Nazi Europe*. Free Press, 1988.
- Oliner, Samuel P. *Do Unto Others: Extraordinary Acts of Ordinary People*. Westview, 2003.
- Polkinghorne, John, ed. *The Work of Love: Creation as Kenosis*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Pope, Stephen J. *The Evolution of Altruism and the Ordering of Love*. Georgetown University Press, 1994.
- Rice, Hugh. *God and Goodness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Small, Meredith F. *What's Love Got to Do With It? The Evolution of Human Mating*. Anchor, 1995.
- Sober, Elliott, and David Sloan Wilson. *Unto Others: The Evolution and Psychology of Unselfish Behavior*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1998.
- Sorokin, Pitirim. *The Ways and Power of Love*. Philadelphia: Templeton, 2002 [reprint].
- Sternberg, Robert. *Love is a Story: A New Theory of Relationships*. New York: Oxford, 1998.
- Sternberg, Robert and Michael Barnes, eds. *The Psychology of Love*. Yale University Press, 1988.
- Toner, Jules. *The Experience of Love*. Corpus, 1968.
- Walsh, Anthony. *The Science of Love: Its Effects on Mind and Body*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Prometheus, 1991.

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Day-by-Day Schedule

- 1/12 **Introduction** to the Course (change class time to 6pm -9pm) Movie: *Schindler's List*
- 1/19 **What is Love?** (Oord, "The Love Racket") We will choose review books. Movie: *Hotel Rwanda*
- 1/26 **What is Love?** (P, ch. 1 & 3; O, ch. 1) Movie: *Mother Theresa: A Life of Devotion*
- 2/2 **Narnia and Love** 7pm, Swayne Auditorium (Subject for Journal: Does the Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe portray a God of love? Watch the movie in a theater before this evening.)
- 2/9 **Agape and the Bible** (Nygren, *Agape and Eros* material; Oord, "Anders Nygren – *Agape And Eros* Biblical Love Theology?") Movie: *Pay it Forward*
- 2/16 **"It's Good to be Good: Agape Love and Human Flourishing"** Lecture by Stephen Post, 7pm, Swayne Auditorium
- 2/23 **Agape and Altruism** (Vacek Readings) Movie: *The Altruists: An inspiring story of four people who set out to do good and as a result did very well. And His Holiness the Dalai Lama Visits Harvard.*
- 3/2 **Sacrificial Love** Movie: *To End All Wars*
- 3/9 **Self-love** (Nygren "Self-Love;" Oord, "Who should be loved?") Movie: *The Color Purple*
- 3/16 **"Coming to Peace with Science: Bridging the Worlds Between Faith and Biology"** Lecture by Darrel Falk, 7pm, Swayne Auditorium
- 3/23 **Eros, Sex, and Romance** (N, pp. 11-31, 52-63, 81-109 [Jose Ortega y Gasset, Stendhal, Simone de Beauvior, Plato and Aristotle], O, ch. 7; "Christianity," in *Sex and Religion*) **Book Review Due** Movie: *Breaking the Waves*
- 3/30 Spring Break
- 4/6 **Philia** (O, ch. 4 & 5; N, 227-239, 253-286 [Aristotle, Martin Buber,

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Herbert Spencer, Max Scheler, and George H. Mead]) Movie: *Weapons of the Spirit*

- 4/13 **“Christian Contours of Social Work”** Lecture by Rick Chameic-Case, 7pm, Science Lecture Hall
- 4/20 **Love and Science** (P, chs. 4-6; O, ch. 3, 6, 8) Move: *Contact*
- 4/24 **Theology Night**, Monday, 7pm, College Church of the Nazarene Atrium
- 4/27 **“My Philosophy of Love” Paper Due** by 4pm, to religion secretary in Williams Hall. Movie: *Ghandi*
- 5/4 **Dinner; Journal Due; Review** for Final Exam